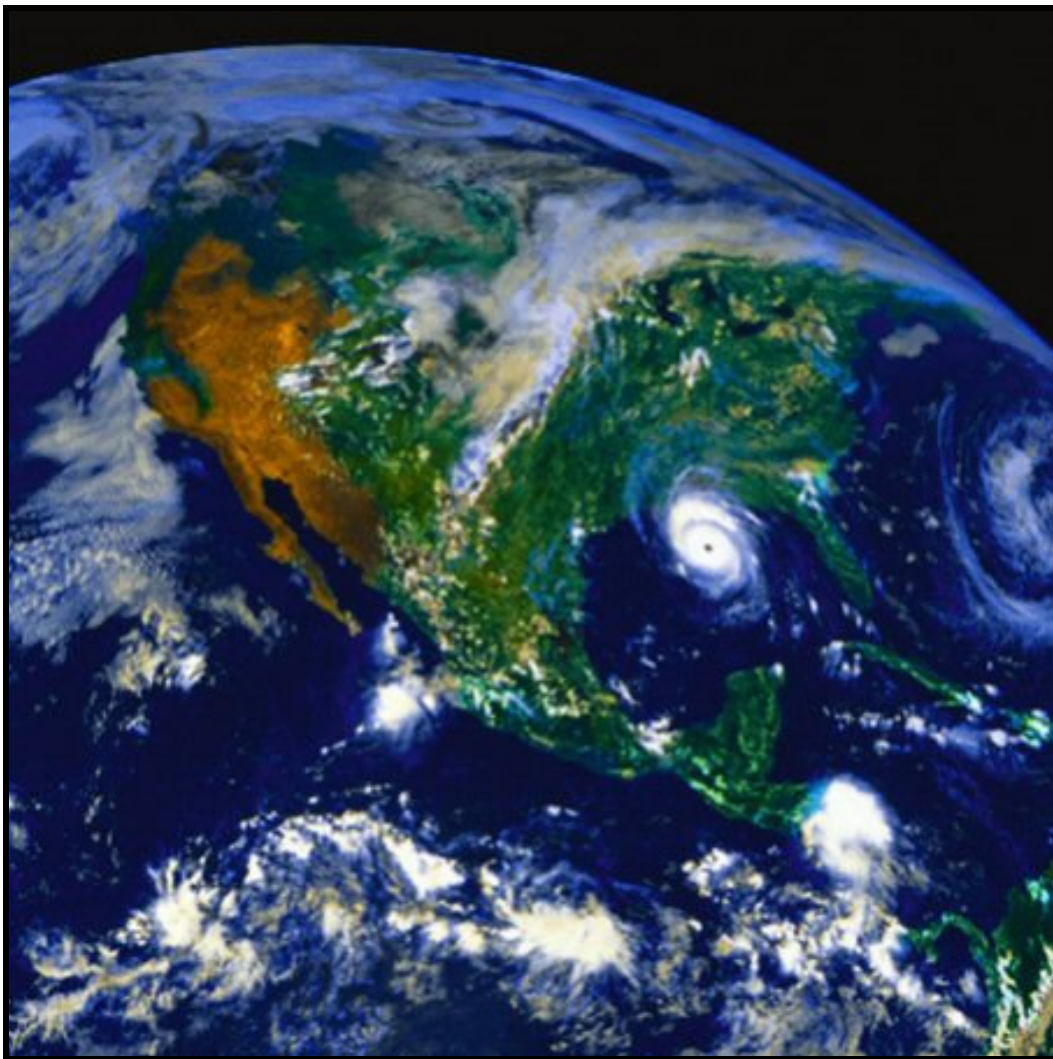


THE URANTIA BOOK BASICS

by Mary Ebben Livingston



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AUTHOR'S NOTES

It is my sincere desire that "The Urantia Book Basics" may serve as an ascending disclosure of the love of our Paradise Parent for all universe children. It is written for our teenagers, young adults, and new readers who need a simple foundation on which to build the higher concepts presented in *The Urantia Book*. "The Urantia Book Basics" is **not** meant to take the place of *The Urantia Book* (since that would be the equivalent of trying to illuminate the sun with a candle). Rather, may it serve as the detonator to one's exploding spirituality and pave the way to the superlative writings of The Fifth Epochal Revelation.

May we all grow closer to God,

Mary

This book
is
DEDICATED
to my life partner and beloved husband
Steve Livingston,
my daughter, Christina Marie Ebben,
my son, Michael Thomas Ebben,
my good friend, JoiLin Johnson,
all my friends of The Teaching Mission,
The Jesusonian Foundation,
and all who embrace the teachings of
The Urantia Book.

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God the Universal Father

God is the First Father. He is the First Source and Center of all things and beings. God the Father is the great and only **I AM**. He is infinite: never-beginning and never-ending. He is forever changeless. To God there is no time—no past, present or future.

God is not an accident; he is not a man, a machine, or nature. God is universal spirit, eternal truth, infinite reality and father personality. Even though we cannot see God with our eyes, he is a person. God does not hide from us but lives in a light that no material creature can approach. God shows himself to each of us up to the fullness of each creature's ability to spiritually understand the qualities of truth, beauty and goodness. We cannot see love but we can feel what love does for us and how it makes us happy. Similarly, we cannot see the Father but we can feel his presence in our lives and experience that happiness.

Truth, beauty and goodness are real spiritual facts and are united in God who is love. God's heart is forever open to us. The Father "delights in his children." Each of us can feel his nearness and love for us because the Father sends a small piece, a fragment, of himself to live inside of us—to spiritually help and guide each of us to him. God the Universal Father not only planned our eternal destiny but he **is** our eternal destination.

God is superb character. He is kind, loving and forgiving. We never need to try to influence God because our sincere need always guarantees the fullness of his love. The Father is fair and just. He is never angry or punishing. It is through our own choices that we sometimes hurt ourselves but that should not be confused with punishment.

It is true that God is amazingly powerful, having created Paradise and one billion perfect worlds, and it is also true that God created and controls the awesome energy and universe forces, but we, his children, love the Father not because of his power but because of his perfect nature. The Father is truly loving, kind, forgiving, fair, and caring. Everything good, beautiful, true and loving comes from God who is all of these things. The Father knows and loves each of his children and you can know and love him. Everyone who knows even a small part of God or who has a growing love for him wants to be like the Father. That is why the messengers of Paradise have forever carried God's loving message, "Be you perfect, even as I am perfect", through the universes, even to the people of Urantia (You-ran'-chah), which is God's name for our planet.

However, the Father does not make us love him. He allows us to choose. God's love is freely given to every child who wants God's love. He knows your needs even before you do. If you choose to be led by the spiritual force in you, then you cannot fail to reach the high destiny established by our loving, perfect Father. Your growing love for the Father and wanting to be like him is truly the biggest adventure of your life!

QUOTE

Page 2097, last sentence:

"When all is said and done, the Father idea is still the highest human concept of God."

God the Eternal Son

Although God has no beginning, we can imagine a starting point and an order of events. At this imaginary beginning, from God sprang the Eternal Son. God is thus a Father, the First Great Source and Center. But, God is also the Eternal Son, the Second Great Source and Center, because he came only from God-himself.

Even though this is a mystery to us, it is true that God did not duplicate himself. The Eternal Son is the original and only-begotten Son of God which means he sprang from the Father and **is** the Father.

The Universal Father is first a creator and then a controller. The Eternal Son is first a co-creator and then a divine administrator of the spiritual government of the universe of universes.

God the Universal Father and God the Eternal Son are each unique and original. Both are perfect and both are changeless but each expresses himself differently. Whenever the Father expresses himself he does so through his Eternal Son, who is the living and divine Word.

The Father loves us as a father. The Eternal Son looks upon all creatures both as a father and as a brother. The Son cannot love more than the Father but he can show mercy in one additional way. He is not only a creator like the Father but he is also the Eternal Son of that same Father, and so he shares the sonship experience of all other sons of the Universal Father.

The Eternal Son is devoted to the revelation of the God of love to the universe of universes. As we understand love, we can compare God's love to the love of a father while the love of the Eternal Son is more like the affection of a mother. There is no difference in the amount of love, only in the way it is expressed.

The Father, in eternalizing the Original Son, bestowed upon him the power and privilege of joining with him in the divine act of producing additional Sons (Paradise Sons), each possessing creative attributes. This, the Universal Father and the Eternal Son have done and continue to do. The administration of the Eternal Son in the superuniverses is not discernible by creature personalities. In the local universes however, the Eternal Son is personally present in the person of the Paradise Sons.

The plan of progressive attainment is the Universal Father's plan of evolutionary ascension while the Eternal Son's plan consists of his bestowal of the Sons of God upon the evolutionary worlds, there to incarnate and make real the love of the Father and the mercy of the Son. And such a co-ordinate Creator Son incarnated as Jesus of Nazareth on Urantia in connection with his experiential bestowal career of sovereignty acquirement.

A fragment of the Father lives inside us but the spirit of the Son bathes all creation and draws us to God. Part of the Father lives in us and the spirit of the Son surrounds us while the two forever work as one for our spiritual advancement.

God the Infinite Spirit

When God the Universal Father and God the Eternal Son shared the first exact thought-plan, God the Infinite Spirit sprang into being. Next, this Third Great Source and Center acted and one billion perfect worlds flashed into existence, the Havona (Hah-vohn-ah) worlds; this Central Universe was created by him in obedience to the united wills of the Father and the Son. The Infinite Spirit is just as unique, original, and changeless as the Father and the Son. The Father expresses himself through the personality of the Eternal Son, the Word of God, while the Father acts through the personality of the Infinite Spirit, the God of Action.

Interpretation

Justice is characterized by implementation of law. Mercy is justice tempered by divine love.

The Infinite Spirit shares the Father's perfection and love but is more the mercy minister to the Grand Universe. The Spirit is love applied, the combined love of the Father and Son. God the Father loves men; God the Eternal Son serves men; God the Infinite Spirit inspires us to find God. The Infinite Spirit is present not only as himself but also as the Father and as the Son and as the Father-Son. God the Spirit is the first of the Paradise Deities that we will recognize. We must go through him to the Son and from the Son to the Father.

When the Father's attainment plan and the Son's bestowal plan were formulated and proclaimed, the Infinite Spirit put into operation the tremendous and universal enterprise of mercy ministry. This is the service so essential to the effective operation of both the attainment and bestowal plans, for all of the spiritual personalities of the Infinite Spirit participate in the spirit of mercy ministry. Not only in creation but also in administration, the Infinite Spirit actually and literally functions as the conjoint (united and combined) executive of the Father and the Son.

Much as the Father draws all personality to himself, and as the Son attracts all spiritual reality, so does the Infinite Spirit exercise a drawing power on all minds; he unqualifiedly dominates and controls the universal mind circuit. All true and genuine intellectual values, all divine thoughts and perfect ideas, are unerringly drawn into this universal circuit of mind.

For every Creator Son of the Father and Eternal Son, the Infinite Spirit creates a companion, a Creative Daughter. The term Holy Spirit is actually the spirit circuit of the Creative Daughters of the Paradise Infinite Spirit. The Holy Spirit is an original circuit for each, and is confined to the spiritual realm of that creation. There are many spiritual influences that unvaryingly coincide with the spirit ministry of the combined influences of the Infinite Spirit and a local universe Mother Spirit (Creative Daughter). Know that when you deal with the practical affairs of your daily life, you are in the hands of the spirit personalities having origin in the Infinite Spirit. And, these personalities of the Infinite Spirit are forever dedicated to the service of the ministry of the love of the Father and the mercy of the Son to all intelligent creatures of the evolutionary worlds. "These spirit beings constitute the living ladder whereby mortal man climbs from chaos to glory."

Recap of God Concepts

GOD THE FATHER

First Source and Center
 Creator, then Controller

 Superb character and perfect nature
 Thought
 Expresses Love as a father

 Loves mankind
 Draws all personality to himself
 Attainment Plan:
 Evolutionary ascension
 (progressive attainment)

 Father's Spirit Lives In Us –
 He sends a small piece,
 fragment of himself, to live
 inside of us

 The Father IS our eternal
 destination

GOD THE SON

Second Source and Center
 Co-creator, then Divine
 Administrator

 Shares sonship experience
 Word
 Expresses affection as a
 mother

 Serves mankind
 Attracts all spiritual reality

 Bestowal Plan:
 Incarnation (bestowal) of the
 descending Sons of God

 The Eternal Son's Spirit
 Surrounds Us – His Spirit
 bathes all creation and draws
 us to God

 The Eternal Son leads us to
 the Father

GOD THE INFINITE SPIRIT

Third Source and Center
 Conjoint (united and
 combined) Executive of the
 Father and the Son

 Mercy minister
 Deed (Action)
 Is combined love and
 affection applied
 Inspires mankind to find God
 Has drawing power on all
 minds
 Mercy Ministry Plan:
 Effective operation and
 implementation of the
 attainment and bestowal
 Plans
 The Infinite Spirit Connects
 Creation – His Spirit
 dominates and controls the
 universal mind circuits
 The Infinite Spirit leads us to
 the Eternal Son

The Father and the Son, together, create the
 Paradise Sons, including the order of Creator
 Michael Sons.

The Infinite Spirit creates
 all the ministering spirits
 including all orders of
 angels. In addition, he
 creates a companion for
 each Creator Michael Son
 called a Creative Daughter
 Spirit.

A Creator Michael Son and a Creative Daughter Spirit leave Paradise to represent God in time and space. They create the evolutionary universes.

The Paradise Trinity

God the Universal Father, the Eternal Son and the Infinite Spirit are each called a Deity and as united Deity they are called the Paradise Trinity. Each is a separate Deity and at the same time the one and only God.

To help you understand the Paradise Trinity you can imagine yourself and two friends as a team. Your team really has no personality or life of its own but through its three members and your personalities, the team does function and take on certain character. Of course the three perfect persons of the Paradise Trinity are in perfect harmony and perfect unity so that together they are as one.

The Father, Son, and Spirit not only act personally and collectively, but they also act in various groupings, so that in the end they function in seven different capacities:

1. The Father
2. The Son
3. The Spirit
4. The Father-Son
5. The Father-Spirit
6. The Son-Spirit
7. The Father-Son-Spirit.

The personal Deities have attributes but the Trinity should be regarded more as having *functions* such as justice administration, coordinate action, and cosmic overcontrol. However, as with all living associations, the Trinity is more than just function because a group's potential is always greater than the attributes of its individual members.

The First Source and Center (God the Father) functions outside Havona as follows:

1. As creator, through the Creator Sons.
2. As controller, through the gravity center of Paradise.
3. As spirit, through the Eternal Son.
4. As mind, through the Infinite Spirit.
5. As a father, he maintains parental contact with every creature through his personality circuit.
6. As a person, he acts directly throughout creation by his exclusive fragments.
7. As total Deity, he functions only in the Paradise Trinity.

The Son functions as one with the Father except in the bestowal of the God fragments and he is also not closely identified with the intellectual activities of material creatures nor with the energy activities of the material worlds.

The Infinite Spirit is amazingly universal and performs in the spheres of mind, matter, and spirit. He is not directly concerned with physical gravity, spiritual gravity, or with the Father's personality circuit, but he more or less participates in all other universe activities.

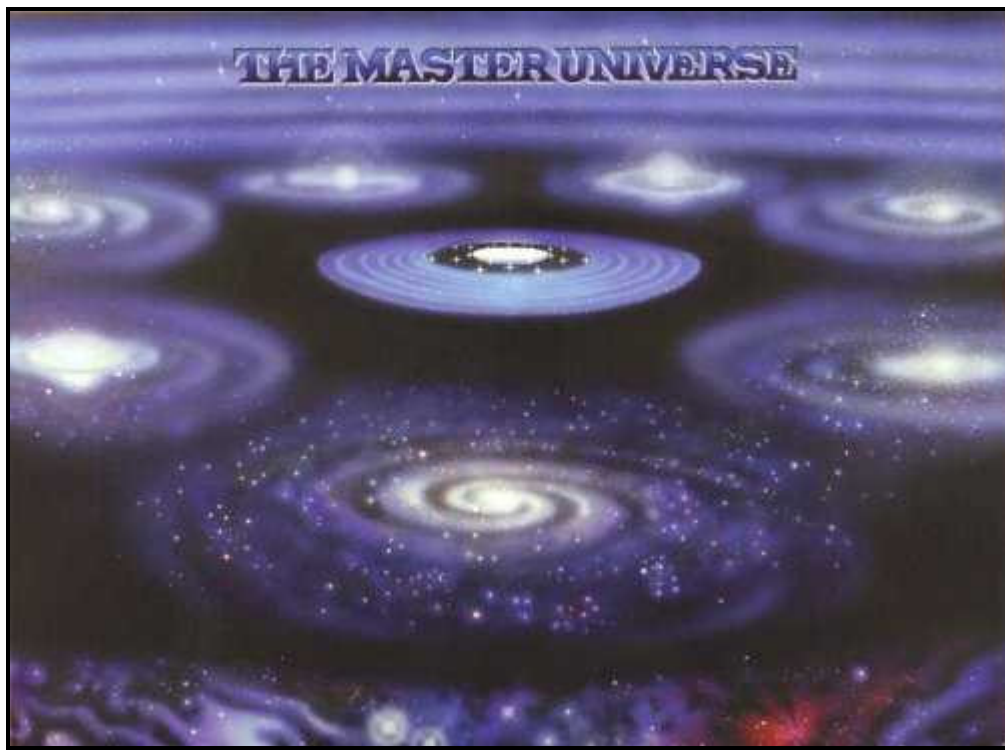
Mortal man should view the Trinity mystery: three as one and in one, in accordance with your individual enlightenment and in harmony with the reactions of your mind and soul. But whether you understand this mystery of God or not, do understand that we are all a part of their universal family.

The Master Universe

The Universal Father, the Eternal Son, the Infinite Spirit, and their divine associates are personally, literally and actually present on the Isle of Paradise. This nuclear Isle of Light and Life is so enormous that it is beyond imagination. Paradise is the eternal center of the universe of universes and is the only place in all of creation that does not move. The Isle of Paradise is both a material and spiritual place and from God's infinite being, the flood-streams of life, energy, and personality flow to all creation.

Havona, the Central Universe, is not a time creation. This never-beginning, never-ending universe consists of one billion perfect spheres. Havona encircles and revolves around the Isle of Paradise.

The Grand Universe is comprised of seven gigantic superuniverses which together turn and spin around the Central Universe. Everything in the Grand Universe is evolutionary and it is suggested that the seven superuniverses are, as yet, incomplete. While the Central Universe is a creation of perfection the evolutionary worlds are imperfect—perfection being the goal.



Art by John Byron

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Each of the seven superuniverses has 100,000 local universes. Each of these local universes is organized into 100 constellations and further organized into 100 systems per constellation. To give you an idea of the vastness of evolutionary creation, each of the 700,000 local universes has or will have 10 million inhabited worlds!

While the Central Universe is the creation of God, the evolutionary superuniverses are the actual creations of the Paradise Sons of God of the order of Michael. Each local universe is created and ruled by an individual Creator Michael Son in partnership with a Creative Daughter Spirit.

Outer space levels exist beyond the seven superuniverses. Far out in space there are forming, circuits of force and materializing energies. Between the energy circuits of the seven superuniverses and this gigantic outer belt of force activity, there is a quiet space zone free from star dust or cosmic fog. This continuous belt of cosmic activity encircling all of the known, organized, and inhabited creation is situated in the first outer space

level. Still greater activities are taking place in the second outer space level of the Master Universe.

There are a total of four outer space levels destined to evolve. Theoretically, the Infinite can never attain full expression except through infinite creation, so there is no limit (potentially) to the Master Universe. But as it now exists and is administered to, the Master Universe is regarded as being bounded on its outer margins by open space.

God has retained little control over the operation and administration of the worlds of time and space, the evolutionary worlds; rather, has he delegated this experiential supervision and care to the many orders of creation.

The Seven Master Spirits

The Seven Master Spirits of Paradise are the primary personalities of the Infinite Spirit. This sevenfold creative act of self-duplication mathematically exhausted the possible combinations of the three persons of Deity.

The Seven Master Spirits have their origin in, and derive their individual characteristics from, the following seven likenesses:

1. The Universal Father
2. The Eternal Son
3. The Infinite Spirit
4. The Father and the Son
5. The Father and the Spirit
6. The Son and the Spirit
7. The Father, Son, and Spirit

The Paradise Father speaks only through his Son, while he and the Son jointly act only through the Infinite Spirit. Outside of the Central Universe the Infinite Spirit speaks only by the voices of the Seven Master Spirits.

In spirit character and nature these Seven Master Spirits are as one, but in all other aspects of identity they have individual differences. They have many functions but their particular domain is the supervision of one of the seven superuniverses.

All seven Master Spirits fully represent the Infinite Spirit to the evolutionary universes. They are the personalized physical power, cosmic mind, and spiritual presence of the three persons of Deity.

Much of the reality of the spiritual worlds is of the morontia (moh-rah-n-chah) order, a phase of universe reality unknown on Urantia. The morontia life is the long period of growth between our physical life and our spirit life. It is in this realm that the Master Spirits make their great contribution to the plan of man's Paradise ascension.

When progress has led to the Central Universe, the Master Spirit presiding over the superuniverse from which a pilgrim comes, is immediately recognizable. We are from the seventh superuniverse, Orvonton (Or-vohn-ton), whose headquarters is Uversa (You-vur-sah).

The Seventh Master Spirit of Orvonton discloses the marvelous balance and blending of the divine natures of the Father, Son and Spirit and he always works in harmony with the Reflective Spirits of Uversa.

The Ancients of Days

There are seven orders of the Supreme Trinity Personalities of which the Ancients of Days are one. All Supreme Trinity Personalities were created for specific service. The Seven Master Spirits determine the nature of their superuniverses but the Ancients of Days dictate the administration of these same superuniverses.

All 21 Ancients of Days were created at the same time and are all basically identical. They possess individuality but they do not differ from one another as do the Seven Master Spirits. The Ancients of Days are the super-perfect offspring of the Paradise Trinity. They represent the beginning of the personality records and that is why they are called *Ancients* of Days. These high beings always govern in groups of three. In power and area of authority they are the most powerful and mighty of any of the direct rulers of the time-space creations.

The Creator Sons of the local universes oversee creation and spiritualization. These Sons devote themselves to implementing the Paradise plan of progressive mortal ascension. They also serve in the rehabilitation of rebels and wrong thinkers. However, if loving efforts are finally and forever rejected by such rebels, the final decree of dissolution is carried out by forces acting under the jurisdiction of the Ancients of Days. The Ancients of Days and their associates mete out the just judgment of supreme fairness to the seven superuniverses.

The three Ancients of Days of each superuniverse are the joint chief executives of the supergovernment. Each group of three is assisted by a corps of one billion Perfectioners of Wisdom (with whom are associated three billion Divine Counselors), one billion Universal Censors, and ascended mortals who have attained Paradise and are assigned to the supernal service of the Ancients of Days.

Those who have chosen the Paradise ascension plan and have completed their local universe careers become accredited spirits. As young spirits, they begin the ascension of the superuniverse system of training. This extends from the spheres of the minor sector through the ten major sectors and on to the higher spheres of the superuniverse headquarters. All ascenders on the training worlds of the superuniverse are wards of the Ancients of Days.

Descending Sons of God

Ascending sons, such as mortals, achieve perfection by experiential participation in the creative technique known as evolution. Descending orders of sonship include personalities who are of direct and divine creation. They go down, actually out, into the universes, even to individual planets. Those Sons who come forth from the Deities on the central Isle of Paradise are called the Paradise Sons of God. They are:

1. Creator Sons - the Michaels
2. Magisterial Sons - the Avonals
3. Trinity Teacher Sons - the Daynals

The primary or Creator Sons are brought into being by the Universal Father and the Eternal Son. The Magisterial Sons are children of the Eternal Son and the Infinite Spirit. The Trinity Teacher Sons are the offspring of the Father, Son, and Spirit. These Paradise Sons have revealed themselves as divine ministers—creators, servers, bestowers, judges, teachers, and truth revealers. In a local universe both Magisterial and Teacher Sons serve under the direction of the Creator Son.

The remaining four orders of descending sonship are called the Local Universe Sons of God. They are:

4. Melchizedek (Mel-kizz'-uh-deck) Sons
5. Vorondadek (Voh-ron'-da-deck) Sons - Most Highs and Constellation Fathers
6. Lanonandek (La-non'-an-deck) Sons - System Sovereigns and Planetary Princes
7. The Life Carriers

The Melchizedeks are the first order of divine Sons able to function directly in the ministry of mortal upliftment. These Sons are at the mid-point of personality descent and are natural intermediaries. All forms of intelligent life, and perhaps especially the angelic orders, find the Melchizedeks to be understanding friends, sympathetic teachers, and wise counselors.

The Melchizedek Sons are a self-governing order and are the pattern and teachers of self-government. The Melchizedeks occupy the position and assume the responsibilities of the eldest son in a large family. Their work is to teach, train and counsel, to act as unprejudiced observers, and to serve as advisory commissioners—and they have the full confidence of all classes of intelligent life. There are upwards of ten million Melchizedeks in our local universe.

More is presented on these descending orders under the Local Universe Personalities section.

The Supreme Being

Evolving minds would be helpless in the Master Universe, would be unable to form the first rational thought pattern, were it not for the ability of all mind, high or low, to form a universe frame in which to think. Conceptual frames of the universe serve as scaffolding which eventually gives way to the expansion of enlarging cosmic understanding. Our understandings of truth, beauty, and goodness, morality, ethics, duty, love, divinity, origin, existence, purpose, destiny, time, space, even Deity, are only relatively true. God is much, much more than a Father, but the Father is man's highest concept of God.

God the Supreme is first of all a spirit person, and this spirit person stems from the Trinity. But the Supreme is secondly a Deity of growth—evolutionary growth—and this growth comes from both the actual and the potential. God the Father, Son, and Spirit are changeless—while God the Supreme is the God of growth and change. He is the bridge between the infinite and finite, between the complete and the incomplete, and between the absolute and potential. Were it not for the Supreme Being, the imperfect could not grow perfect. All growth is through the Supreme, the God of experience.

In the evolutionary superuniverses, spirit, through the mediation of mind, is struggling for mastery and coordination of mind with spirit within the universe thought-frame. This union is expressed on deity levels in and as the Supreme. But the actual evolution of spirit dominance is growth based on the freewill **acts** of the Creators and creatures of the Grand Universe.

In a human being the physical life is responsive, in part, to the dictates of personal mind. This mind may become dominated by the leadings of purposive spirit, and the result of such evolutionary development contributes to the unification of cosmic realities. The effort is made by the personalities of time and space but the culmination of this effort is the act of the Supreme. The evolution of the parts is a reflection of the purposive growth of the whole. All personally strive in the achievement and all personally participate in the destiny.

With God the Father, sonship is the great relationship. With God the Supreme, achievement is the prerequisite to status—one must do something as well as be something. When we do the will of God, the Supreme becomes one step more actual.

The Supreme is the beauty of physical harmony, the truth of intellectual meaning and the goodness of spiritual value. He is the sweetness of true success and the joy of everlasting achievement. He is the oversoul of the Grand Universe, the consciousness of the cosmos, the completion of finite reality and the personification of creator-creature experience. The universe procession of descending God-revealing Creators and ascending God-seeking creatures is revelatory of the Deity evolution of the Supreme, in whom both descenders and ascenders achieve mutual understanding—the discovery of eternal and universal brotherhood.

The Local Universe

The Creator Sons of the Paradise order of Michael are the makers and rulers of the local universes of time and space. These universe creators and sovereigns are of origin in the Father and Son but each is unique in nature and personality. Each is the "only begotten Son".

The Infinite Spirit is destined to function as the actual and effective helper of each Creator Son. Therefore does a Creative Daughter of the Infinite Spirit -- that being who is destined to become the Divine Minister, the Mother Spirit of the new local universe -- accompany each Creator Son.

The first completed act of physical creation in Nebadon (Neb-ah-don), our local universe, was the headquarters world of Salvington (Sal-ving-ton) and its satellites. From the time of the initial moves of the power centers and physical controllers to the arrival of the living staff on the completed spheres of Salvington, there intervened about one billion years of our time. Next were constructed 100 headquarters worlds for the projected constellations and 10,000 headquarters spheres for the projected local systems. Such architectural worlds are designed for both physical and spiritual personalities, as well as morontia (moh-rah'n'-chah) or transition stages of being.

When a perfect and divine Son has taken possession of the space site of his chosen universe, when the initial problems of universe materialization and of gross equilibrium have been resolved, when he has formed an effective and cooperating working union with the complemental Daughter of the Infinite Spirit, then does the Universe Son and Universe Daughter Spirit initiate the liaison which gives origin to innumerable local universe children -- a vast and wonderful array of diverse creatures. In connection with this event, the Creative Daughter Spirit becomes changed in nature, taking on the personal qualities of the Mother Spirit of a local universe.

Next the government is provided, extending from the supreme councils of the universe to the fathers of the constellations to the sovereigns of the local systems and, subsequently, to the worlds which become homes of the varied mortals - each presided over by a Planetary Prince.

When a Michael Son is absent from his universe, its government is directed by the first born native being who belongs to the order of Bright and Morning Stars. The advice and council of the Union of Days (Immanuel) is also invaluable in Michael's absence. And, the Mother Spirit of a local universe remains always at its headquarters extending her care and spiritual ministry.

Urantia belongs to the local system of Satania (Sah-tane-ee-ah) which now has 619 inhabited worlds located in over 500 different physical solar systems. From Jerusem (Jer-oo-sem), the headquarters of Satania, it is over 200 thousand light-years to the physical center of the superuniverse of Orvonton, far, far away in the dense diameter of the Milky Way.

The creations of the seven superuniverses are all finite, evolutionary and consistently progressive. No universe is settled in Light and Life until its physical possibilities of expansion and development have been exhausted and until the spiritual status of all its inhabited worlds has been forever settled and established.

Except in the Central Universe, perfection is a progressive attainment. Excepting perfect beings of Deity origin, all will creatures are of evolutionary nature, beginning in lowly estate and climbing ever upward, in reality inward. And all who choose God's plan of eternal life will ascend through our local universe system, constellation and headquarters, through the superuniverse, through the Central Universe and finally to the Isle of Paradise to be in the Father's presence.

Sovereignty of Creator Sons

The term sovereign when applied to government can best be explained by the example of the United States. Each of our states has representation and equal rights; one state is no more important or powerful than another. All states have willingly given their sovereignty to the federal government and the result is interstate peace.

The universal spiritual government is supremely sovereign. No planet, system, constellation, local universe, sector, or superuniverse is more important or powerful, and all give their sovereignty and loyalty to God who is supreme.

A Creator Son is given physical possession of the local universe he creates by the consent of the Paradise Trinity and concerned superuniverse Master Spirit. Creator Sons truly have free will. A Creator Son could claim full sovereignty over his personal creation at any time, and therefore do the Creator Sons take an oath not to claim sovereignty but to earn that sovereignty. *Never* has a Creator Son broken his oath.

Just as God has an attainment plan for mortals, he has a bestowal-earned sovereignty attainment plan for his Creator Sons. The elevation of a Michael Son from first-stage rulership as acting representative of the Father, to the supremacy of self-earned sovereignty comes as a result of his own experiences in the creation of his universe and his incarnated bestowals. Michael of Nebadon chose to earn his supreme sovereignty over our universe.

A prebestowal Creator Son rules his local universe supremely when there are no rebellions, but this limited rulership would not be apparent if sovereignty were never challenged. Should rebellion occur within a prebestowal Son's universe the Paradise representatives take a very active role. Rebellion within a postbestowal Son's universe seems unlikely; he is a proven sovereign ruler which is unchallengeable. Should rebellion occur, however, the Son could act in his own right.

Before the completion of the bestowal career, a Creator Son rules with self-imposed limitations of sovereignty on behalf of the Father. After he has finished his bestowal service, he is experientially worthy and competent to fully rule his universe and administer to its worlds in his own right as King of Kings and Lord of Lords; he has become a Master Son -- a settled, supreme, sovereign ruler.

The bestowal career is a method of experiencing seven creature levels through the technique of incarnated bestowal. An incarnated Creator Son not only appears in the likeness of the creatures on the level concerned but *he is* such a creature. He portrays the highest level of perfection of creature life to Paradise Deity and to all universe intelligences. He reveals one phase of Deity will to the bestowal level and to all the universe. In addition, through this Creator-creature experience he achieves a new and higher relationship with the Supreme Being.

After each bestowal a Creator Son goes to the "right hand of the Father" to gain the Father's acceptance of the bestowal and to receive instruction as to the next episode of universe service.

Master Michael of Nebadon completed his seventh and final bestowal as Jesus of Nazareth and has since ruled in full power and glory as supreme sovereign of all Nebadon.

Local Universe Personalities

Each local universe is characterized by dual supervision, the beginning of the father-mother concept. The universe father is the Creator Michael Son and the universe mother is the Creative Daughter Spirit.

Every local universe is blessed with the presence of Central Universe and Paradise personalities. At the head of the Paradise group in Nebadon is the ambassador of the Paradise Trinity—Immanuel of Salvington. Immanuel is a Union of Days, a high Trinity Son, who functions as advisor to our Creator Son but gives counsel only upon request. He is a being of superb dignity and has the distinction of being the only personality in all Nebadon who has never acknowledged subordination from his brother Michael. He views Michael as his equal, in authority, position, and character.

Each local universe has only one being of the order of the Bright and Morning Stars. This first born creation serves as chief executive to the Creator Michael Son. Gabriel, our Bright and Morning Star, is wonderfully like his parents but is not, himself, a creator.

The Creator Son and Creative Daughter also bring forth the order of the Brilliant Evening Stars. The Brilliant Evening Stars serve in many capacities but primarily as liaison officers of Gabriel. One or more of these superangels functions as Gabriel's representative at the headquarters of each constellation and system in Nebadon.

Archangels are the highest type of spirits, being created in large numbers in a local universe, and Nebadon now has about 800,000. Archangels are dedicated to the work of creature survival rather than the administration of Nebadon and, therefore, are not ordinarily under the supervision of Gabriel.

The Father Melchizedek (Mel-kizz'-uh-deck) is an original offspring of the Creator Son and Creative Daughter and he collaborates with them to bring into existence an entire group of Melchizedek Sons. The Father Melchizedek is Gabriel's first assistant and in Gabriel's absence he assumes responsibilities for the chief executive. Normally Gabriel is occupied with matters of universe policy while Father Melchizedek is concerned with practical procedures. Gabriel presides over regular matters and Father Melchizedek over special, extraordinary, and emergency commissions.

In our local universe there are 490 spheres that are often spoken of as the Melchizedek University. While our young universe stands low as regards spiritual achievement and ethical development, our administrative troubles have turned us into a vast clinic for other near-by creations so that our Melchizedek colleges are thronged with student visitors and observers from other realms. The order of Melchizedeks in Nebadon is renowned throughout our superuniverse.

The Vorondadek (Voh-rah'-dah-deck) Sons, or the Most Highs, serve as heads of the constellation governments. The ruling Most High, the Constellation Father, has two associates, a senior and a junior. They constitute the supreme advisory cabinet of the Creator Son and are chiefly concerned with the welfare of the constellations and the unification of the administration of the entire local universe.

Lanonandek (Lah-non'-an-deck) Sons are the continuous rulers of the planets and the rotating sovereigns of the systems. This order of sonship was required to pass through training on the Melchizedek worlds prior to service. They were classified as to ability, personality, and attainment.

Lanonandeks are a lower order, as concerns divinity levels, and are thus capable of drawing nearer the lower creatures of the intelligent races. They also stand in greater danger of going astray, of departing from the acceptable technique of universe government. Nevertheless, in executive ability only Gabriel and his unrevealed associates excel them.

The Life Carriers are a distinct order of universe Sons in that they are the offspring of the Creator Son, the Universe Mother Spirit, and one of the three Ancients of Days designated as rulers of their superuniverse. These Ancients of Days, who alone can decree the extinction of an intelligent being, participate in the creation

of the Life Carriers, who are entrusted with designing and carrying creature life to the planetary spheres. After planting life on a new world, the Life Carriers remain there for long periods to foster its development.

After the cycle of creation between the Creator Son and Universe Mother Spirit was completed, the Creator Son personalized the beautiful and superb Sons and Daughters of the order called the Material Sons of God. They are the Adams and Eves created for each local system of Nebadon and they are a reproducing order of sonship. Their offspring function as citizens of a system capital, although some are commissioned as Planetary Adams. On a planetary mission the Material Son and Daughter begin the Adamic race designed eventually to blend with the mortals of that planet.

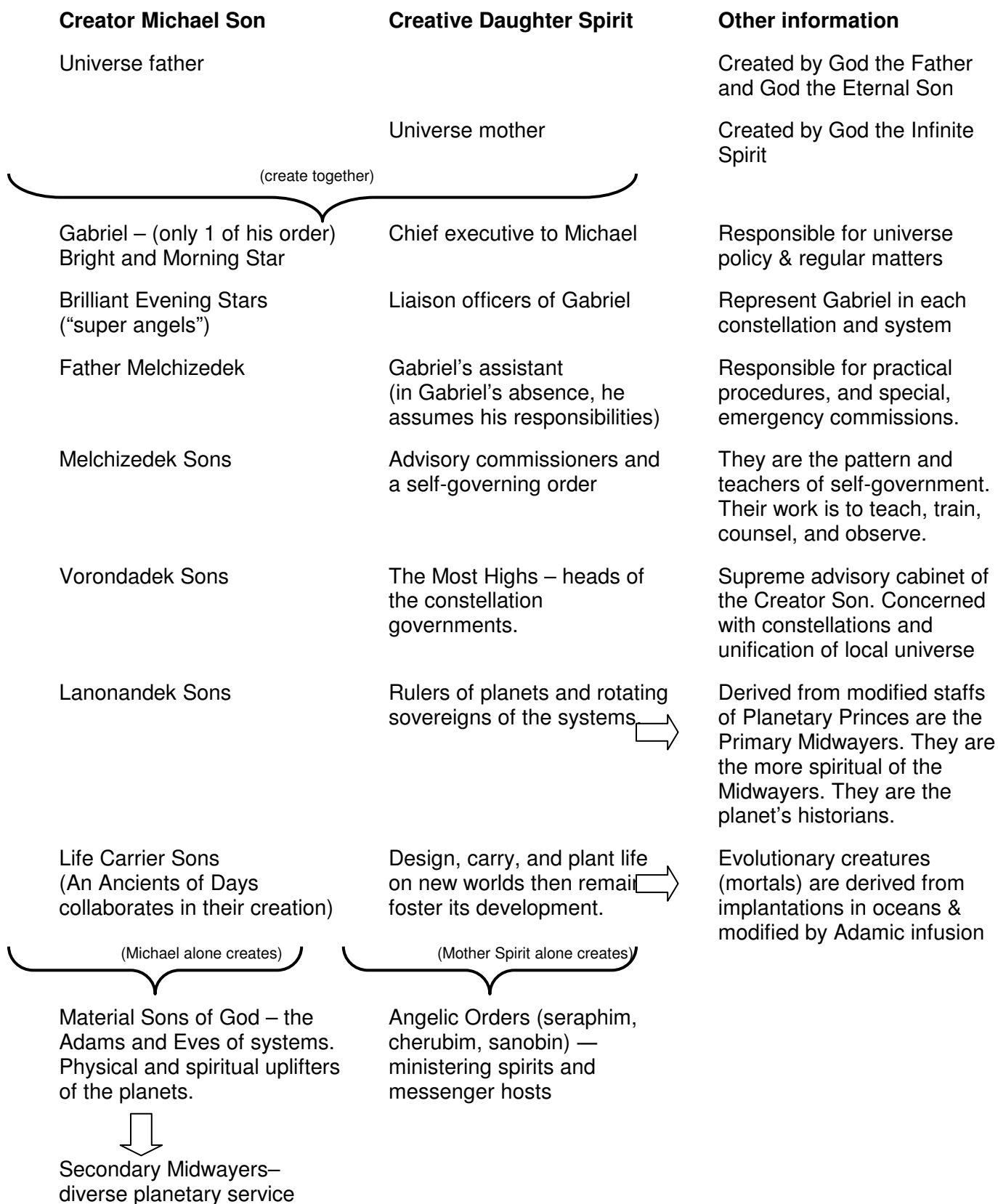
After the creative cycle is completed, the Universe Mother Spirit initiates her solitary work of spirit reproduction. Angels are the ministering spirits and messenger hosts throughout the universes. Those of the Central Universe are supernaphim; the seconaphim are of the superuniverse. The seraphim, with the cherubim (chair'-uh-bim) and sanobim (san'-oh-bim), constitute the angelic corps of a local universe and are the offspring of the Universe Mother Spirit.

Seraphim, although spiritually superior to mortals, share all our non-sensuous emotions except fear. They truly love humans, appreciate our music, art, and real humor, and sympathize with our moral and spiritual difficulties. Angels are not physical males and females but are designated as positive and negative. Because they are children of the Universe Mother Spirit they are referred to by feminine pronouns. Angels do not have physical bodies or wings and we will look very much like them on the mansion worlds.

Midway or halfway between mortals and angels are the Midway Creatures. There are two types of Midway Creatures: primary and secondary. Primary Midwayers are derived from the modified ascendant-mortal staffs of the Planetary Prince and are the more spiritual group. There were 50,000 originally, with over 40,000 being deceived into joining the Lucifer rebellion. Secondary Midwayers on Urantia are the offspring of sixteen children of Adamson (pure Adamic stock) united with the humanized rebel members of the corporeal staff of the former Planetary Prince Caligastia. Of the 1,984 created, 873 rebelled, leaving us with 1,111 loyal secondary Midwayers. All Midwayers have diverse service on the planetary worlds but the primary Midwayers are the historians who design the planetary history exhibits that are kept on the system headquarters.

Still, there are many other beings, revealed and unrevealed. Last are the evolutionary creatures (mortals) derived from the Life Carrier implantations and modified by the Adamic life infusion. Although lowest, we have a destiny of eternal achievement and a universe career wide open to the glory, grandeur, and heights of attainment!

Recap of Local Universe Personalities



Spiritual Thought Adjusters

Although the Universal Father is resident on Paradise, he is also present in the minds of his mortal children. An actual fragment of the Father lives within the intellect of every normal-minded and morally conscious Urantia mortal.

The arrival of the Spiritual Thought Adjuster occurs when a child makes his or her first moral decision, on average, during the fifth year of physical life. It is the primary mission of each Thought Adjuster to represent, to be, the Universal Father. They are from the Father, and, they **are** the Father. They also purposely work to elevate and translate the immortal souls of men up to the spiritual heights of Paradise perfection. They are indispensable to the Paradise ascension plan.

Your Adjuster is the potential of your new and next order of existence. By and with the consent of your will, the Adjuster labors with the material mind for the purpose of constructing, by adjustment and spiritualization, a new mind for your future life. They are heavenly helpers rather than earthly helpers. They are not interested in making the mortal life easier. They are concerned in making your life challenging so that decisions will be stimulated and multiplied.

It is the Adjuster who creates within man that unquenchable yearning and longing to be like God, to ascend to Paradise and to worship the infinite source of such a divine gift. And every mortal who is consciously or unconsciously following the leading of his indwelling Adjuster is living in accordance with the will of God.

The Adjuster is the divine universe reality that God is man's Father. The Spiritual Thought Adjuster is man's infallible cosmic compass, always and unerringly pointing the soul Godward. The Adjuster is man's eternity possibility and man is the Adjuster's personality possibility.

Thought Adjusters are not personalities but they are real entities, spirit entities rather than beings. They plan, work, love, and have the ability to communicate with each other. They are subservient to mortal will because human will functions on the personality level of universe reality and Adjusters are prepersonal -- responsive to the will and acts of existent personality.

The soul of man is an experiential acquirement. As a mortal chooses to do the will of the Father, the Adjuster becomes the father of a new reality. The mortal and his or her material mind is the mother of this same emerging reality. And this new creation is called the soul. As you achieve higher levels of spirituality your Adjuster is insured an increased range of function, until final choosing of your mortal will permits your Adjuster to complete the unity of your identity and soul. This provides for immediate fusion. Fusion is the merging of the soul and the Adjuster. Your soul and your Adjuster are destined to become one. All the experiences and values of one become the possession of the other so that the two are actually one. This new being, this fused being, is of the eternal past as well as of the eternal future.

God has embarked upon the eternal adventure with man. If you will yield to the leadings of the spiritual forces in you and around you, then you cannot fail to attain the high destiny provided by your loving Universal Father. The entire experience of Adjuster communion and leading is one involving moral status, mental motivation, and spiritual experience. The proofs are forthcoming and abundant in the lives of all such inner-spirit contactors.

Love is the dominant characteristic of all God's personal dealings with his creatures. The **direct** personal action of God the Father is through the presence of his fragmentized spirit, the Thought Adjusters.

Eternal Life

As a mortal you begin your eternal life adventure when you commit to doing God's will, when you choose to follow the spirit guides within and around you, when you wholeheartedly strive to be God-knowing and Godlike, and, when you truly desire eternal life.

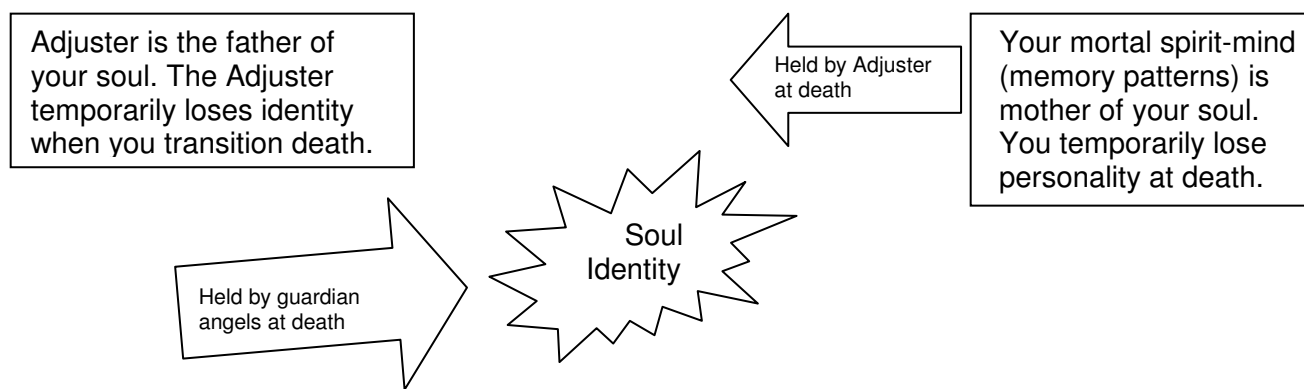
Eternal life, attainment, ascension, is an entirely progressive process. Our physical bodies serve a relatively short time, while the morontia phase—the phase between the physical and spirit—is comparatively long. In fact, you will undergo eight morontia transformations in our system, 71 in our constellation and 491 while sojourning on the spheres of Salvington until you have progressed to a first-stage spirit. You will, if you choose, undergo 570 different ascending morontia changes.

We are aware of one kind of death but there are actually three as concerns personality survival. Spiritual or soul death occurs when someone **knowingly** rejects survival or is spiritually beyond help because they have permanently embraced sin and refuse all further help. After all concerned spirit beings have agreed, the rulers of Orvonton order the release of the indwelling Thought Adjuster. Although the body and mind continues to function (until physical death) this is in reality permanent, final death. Mortals who are resurrected and later choose not to continue (providing they really understand what they are choosing), will likewise cease to exist. No one is forced to accept eternal life. Intellectual or mind death occurs when human will-action has been destroyed and under such circumstances the Thought Adjuster is released. If prior to mind death the human chose eternal life, then their soul will survive. Physical death, when the body and mind stops functioning, also releases the Thought Adjuster. Upon death the Adjuster temporarily loses personality but not identity, and the human loses identity but not personality. Both are reunited on the mansion worlds if the mortal did not knowingly reject survival.

The soul is absolutely unconscious during the sleep of death, the period between physical death and resurrection. Never does a deceased human ever make contact with the living beings on earth. Never does a Thought Adjuster return to earth as the being he formerly indwelt. Never can survivors send back messages—all such communication is forbidden.

During the sleep of death your creature memory patterns, your spirit mind, is in the possession of your detached Thought Adjuster. Your identity, your morontia soul, is in the safekeeping of the seraphic destiny guardians. It is the reuniting of the morontia soul and spirit-mind that constitutes resurrection of a sleeping survivor.

The Temple of New Life on mansion world number one has awakening chambers for as many as one million individuals simultaneously. Throughout all eternity you will remember your profound impressions of seeing the resurrection mornings. However, nothing can so compare to the experiential reality of survival—you will have experienced survival and resurrection!



After your awareness and joy of experiencing survival, you are sure to notice your new morontia form. Morontia life forms are different -- no longer flesh and blood -- and your personality form will progressively reflect your true beauty and inner self. You no longer have male and female bodies since your time of

reproduction is over, but you do retain masculine and feminine personality characteristics. You continue to eat and drink but there is no waste by-product. Although you are no longer flesh and blood, you are only slightly above the physical level and very far from spirit level.

Following your awakening in the resurrection halls, you will be assigned a new home and given ten days (30 Urantia days) of free time. You will want to look in the registry for friends and loved ones that died before you and visit them. You will also explore your beautiful surroundings and learn about the training program that will soon begin.

On earth, kindergarten teachers start with children of all different backgrounds, experiences, skill levels, and maturity. The only place to begin teaching is at each individual's level. Teachers on mansion world number one must have a similar situation and we are told that "you begin over there right where you leave off down here."

Training is called deficiency ministry and consists of the correction and cure of character defects and experience deficiencies. Defects concerning family life and parenting, human intolerance and discrimination, are either corrected or are projected for future correction on Jerusem. If you have evolved sufficiently in mortal life, then, at the end of your free time you instead enter the translation sleep and advance to your assigned, appropriate world.

Mansion world number two provides for the removal of intellectual conflict and varieties of mental disharmony. Mota (Moh-tah), unknown to us now, is a technique for discovering truth, beauty, and goodness. The teaching method used presents man's highest philosophic ideas alongside morontia mota. Mota teaching begins on the first mansion world but is more earnestly studied on the second.

The third mansion world continues mota but here real progress is made in the comprehension of cosmic meanings and universe interrelationships. Training becomes positive rather than correcting defects and deficiencies. Also on mansonia (man-sohn-ee-ah) the third you are permitted to visit the headquarters of the angelic orders and their training schools.

Real progress is made in the areas of morontia culture and social life on the fourth mansion world. A new social order is introduced which is based upon true appreciation and unselfish love of the shared supreme destiny—the Paradise goal of worshipful and divine perfection. You will be allowed to visit the training schools of the superangels, which include the Brilliant Evening Stars Before leaving mansonia the fourth you will have mastered the local universe language.

Of your experiences on mansonia number five *The Urantia Book* says: "It is beginning to dawn upon the enlarging minds of the ascending mortals that some stupendous and magnificent, some supernal and divine, destiny awaits all who complete the progressive Paradise ascension, which has been so laboriously but so joyfully and auspiciously [promisingly] begun. Study is becoming voluntary, unselfish service natural, and worship spontaneous. A real morontia character is budding; a real morontia creature is evolving."

Now you perfect the language of Uversa, headquarters of our superuniverse. All ascending mortals are bilingual from the system headquarters (ours being Jerusem) up to Havona. Preparation begins for your constellation sojourn and will continue on mansonia number six and seven.

Fusion with your Thought Adjuster may have occurred previously but often does not happen until your time on the fifth or sixth mansion world. The perfect fusion of your mind and divine Adjuster is marked by a simple ceremony whereby, in the presence of your friends, the messengers of confirmation speak: "This is a beloved son in whom I am well pleased." This is the moment of true entrance into the eternal career of service. Coming from such lowly origins our progress is remarkable yet we are still more or less material and far from being spirits.

On the sixth mansion world instruction begins in the technique of universe administration. In addition, the first lessons in the prospective spirit career begin in preparation for graduation from the mansion worlds.

Preparation for Jerusem citizenship is the crowning achievement and task on the seventh mansion world. Hundreds of times throughout the mansion world ascension you would have visited Jerusem but always as a guest. You have progressed as an individual but you will leave for Jerusem as part of a group. Often ascenders are permitted to wait on the seventh mansion world for a loved one to catch up to them.

An enormous circular crystal about 30 miles deep is found on almost all architectural worlds. Besides its beauty value, it serves as a landing field for transport seraphim, has superuniverse reflectivity factors, and modifies the currents of space for incoming physical-energy streams. When the time comes to leave for Jerusem, everyone meets on this sea of glass to bid your graduation class farewell. The times of adjustment sleep and resurrection awakening are over when you leave the mansion worlds; now until becoming a first-stage spirit, all progressive transformations are done without a lapse of consciousness.

The arrival of your class is welcomed by all Jerusem, which the prophets called heaven, and by our standards, the grandeur of Jerusem is beyond our human imagination. Jerusem perfectly harmonizes and accommodates all three phases of existence: the material, the morontial, and the spiritual. This beautiful sphere, 100 times larger than Urantia, is light and temperature controlled. There are thousands of small lakes and an abundance of physical plants and morontia life. All is beautifully balanced without struggle for existence.

Jerusem also has a transportation center compatible with the streams of energy. The manufacturing and laboratory areas will astonish even the most experienced chemists and inventors. There is a material economy based on this section of perfect mechanical techniques and physical achievement. The sea of glass has an enormous amphitheater seating five billion beings. Listening to incoming universe reports is a favorite pastime and Paradise broadcasts are aided by Uversa friends so that everything heard becomes visible.

Training will focus on group activities and your willingness to unselfishly put the group before yourself. It is also mandatory that you have parenting experience, which is fundamental to understanding the relationship of the Universal Father and his universe children. Generally, if you raised three or more children during your life in the flesh you will have gained the necessary experience. This service of parental ministry is essential for men as well as women; all must experience parenthood.

Children who died before the arrival of their Thought Adjusters or who had not made a choice concerning their Paradise career, are cared for in the nursery on mansion world number one. Also the children of the Adams and Eves are resident on Jerusem. Therefore, you will have the opportunity to fulfill your parental requirements in the nurturing of your own children or the children of others.

From Jerusem, the system headquarters, you progress through the 70 constellation worlds to the headquarters sphere of Edentia (E-den'-chah). This is true morontia life and the most settled age in your ascending mortal career up to the attainment status of a finaliter (fie-nal'-it-er).

You will learn the secret of pleasant and rewarding interrelationships and will master group ethics. Slowly and systematically you will live, work, relax, cooperate, and achieve social harmony with intellectually similar morontia beings that in every other way are entirely different. The constellation training emphasizes group, racial, national and planetary welfare rather than individual achievement—but, after all, the Most Highs rule in the kingdoms of men rather than in the hearts of individuals.

From Edentia you will join ascending mortals from all the constellations of Nebadon and together pass through the 490 training worlds in the attainment of Salvington citizenship. These marvelous worlds are referred to as the Melchizedek University. The education system includes worlds devoted to physical life with laboratories of living energies, morontia life, beginning spirit life, mid spirit life, advancing spirit life, and supreme coordinated self-realization. Intense review and coordination of experience will prepare you for the Melchizedek schools of universe training.

Following this constellation training you will reside on the home world of, and the sphere called, Melchizedek, to begin specialized education and progressive training for Salvington. Here are the specialized schools such as the College of Spiritual Endowment and the College of Higher Ethics.

As you will discover, Urantia is in many ways a confused and spiritually irregular world, as is our system, due in part to a rebellion against Michael of Nebadon. Michael's choosing of Urantia for his bestowal as Jesus of Nazareth literally put Urantia on the universe map. This, combined with the administrative troubles of the Lucifer rebellion, has turned the local universe of Nebadon into a training clinic for other universes. Therefore is the Melchizedek order in Nebadon and their schools renowned throughout 10,000 local universes and thronged with student visitors and observers. In spite of our lowly evolutionary heritage and spiritual poverty we are in many ways some of the most experientially advantaged mortals in our superuniverse. The term "adventure" appropriately applies to our ascension careers.

You will pass from the final morontia stage and acquire real spirit identity just before you leave Salvington. Thus far, you have been a morontia progressor -- taught, trained, nurtured and guided by the higher personalities of Nebadon. As a citizen of the headquarters world of Salvington, you will be prepared for your superuniverse adventure where you become wards of the Ancients of Days. Michael of Nebadon, our Creator Son, and our local universe Mother Spirit will confirm your spirit status. This confirmation forever settles your status as an ascending mortal because never has a superuniverse ward gone astray.

As a young spirit in the superuniverse your training continues. The more perfected you become, the more difficult it is to relay any comparable earthly description. *The Urantia Book* does say that emphasis is put on the mastery of local and superuniverse administration. "The reason for all this experience is not now fully apparent, but no doubt such training is wise and necessary in view of their possible future destiny as members of the Corps of the Finality."

When you become a full spirit you will become a Havona Pilgrim where your *personal education* begins: intellectual, spiritual, and experiential. If all of this training and education sounds endless—it is. But forget not that you are no longer a time and space creature but a perfecting spirit.

You will progress world by perfect world—one billion perfect spheres—until you achieve residence on Paradise. Each world will offer a definite task to be achieved; life is rich and full, so complete and satisfying. But, such activities and even the Havona thought processes are completely dissimilar to anything we can imagine now.

Spiritual progress culminates in identity comprehension and recognition, first, of your superuniverse Master Spirit, then recognition of the Supreme, and then you are prepared for the Deity adventure. Following attainment of the Infinite Spirit you progress to the Eternal Son, and from the Original Son you will eventually recognize the Universal Father. This glorious achievement signifies acceptance into the service of Paradise, which constitutes membership in the Corps of the Finality.

Members of the Corps of the Finality are perfected sixth stage spirits and are sent on assignments requiring participation in the administration of superuniverse affairs. Considering this **apparent** destiny, the fact remains that there is one more step, although the nature of that final step is, as yet, unrevealed.

Glorified mortals have not attained *finality of ultimate spirit status*. They have achieved creature perfection but not *finality of creature service*. They have realized the fullness of Deity worship but not *finality of experiential Deity attainment*.

There is mystery and speculation concerning the ultimate destiny of the Paradise Corps of Finality. "It seems evident to us that the present assignments of the perfected evolutionary creatures partake of the nature of post-graduate courses in universe understanding and superuniverse administration; and we all ask, 'Why should the Gods be so concerned in so thoroughly training surviving mortals in the technique of universe management?'" Why indeed!

Eternal life is a divine gift, which you may freely choose to receive. "... [D]eath is only the beginning of an endless career of adventure, an everlasting life of anticipation, an eternal voyage of discovery."

Living in God's Presence

All morally conscious and normal-minded mortals of Urantia are indwelt by God the Father. A fragment of the Father is within you. This does not make you Godlike but you can freely choose to live in partnership with God; you can choose God's will by sharing your inner life.

The will of God is the way of God. But how do you know God's will—God's way? The imitation of God is the key to perfection. Your highest ideals and concepts of God will determine what you perceive as God's will; it is wholly individual and grounded in your personal relationship with God.

A relationship cannot exist without some kind of communication. Prayer, even with its element of self-interest, is a means of communication; sharing your life with God. Through prayer you increase your God-consciousness, your awareness of the divine presence within you.

Prayer can be very productive in your spiritual growth if you sincerely want to discover the true values of life—the supreme love of God and the unselfish love of your fellows. "Ask and you shall receive; seek and you shall find." Stop and consider, for what do you ask guidance? For what do you seek help? Do you see growth and spiritual maturity developing? Have you progressed from asking for an easier life to asking that you receive help to be your spiritual best, or a more loving and serving human being?

Attitude also plays a role in your spiritual development. Do you view life as a constant struggle and sometimes ask "Why me?" or do you look at life as an opportunity to gain valuable experiences? Always pause to consider and weigh the significance of your immediate problem. Ask yourself if this problem will matter next year or a billion years from now. If the problem arises through or pertains to a relationship, it will matter. The experience of working through such problems has lasting value. Throughout your ascension career relationships are paramount and of supreme value.

After reading *The Life and Teachings of Jesus in The Urantia Book* you will find it helpful, even insightful, to ask yourself what you truly believe Jesus would do if he were in your situation. Rarely will you not know what Jesus would do; rarely will you not know God's way.

Your spiritual growth cannot be learned or lost, given or received, because growth is based on personal experience and your habits of thinking and acting. Although not a complete list of suggestions, habits which favor growth and provide for spiritual experiences include:

1. Awareness that your fellows are also indwelt by God
2. Recognizing the value and loveable nature of your fellows
3. Sharing your spiritual life with your fellows
4. Problem-solving through prayer
5. Reflective meditation on cosmic meanings and divine values
6. Avoiding selfishness
7. Loving service
8. Refusal to presume on divine mercy
9. And, living in partnership—in the conscious presence of God.

Development of Urantia

Michael's Bestowal Career

Urantia is of origin in our sun and our sun originated in the Andronover nebula, a component part of the local universe of Nebadon. The Andronover nebula was initiated about 875 billion years ago and the breakup and birth of our sun occurred about six billion years ago.

Three billion years ago our solar system reached a level of stability and is functioning much the same today as it was then. During this developmental period extraordinary events were occurring elsewhere in our local universe of Nebadon:

Almost one billion years ago Michael embarked on his first bestowal mission. In his farewell broadcast he announced that his elder brother, Immanuel, would assume authority in Nebadon while he was gone on an unexplained mission to do the will of the Paradise Deities. Only the Divine Minister, Immanuel, and Gabriel knew the nature and whereabouts of Nebadon's Creator Son. Three days later a never-before-heard-of broadcast from the Melchizedeks announced the arrival of a strange Melchizedek not of their number but wholly like their order. The Ancients of Days had issued orders, concurred by Immanuel of Salvington, which requested that the new Melchizedek Son be received into their order and assigned to the emergency service of the Melchizedeks of Nebadon. Nothing else appears on the Salvington records for 100 Urantia years and then it only records the return and unannounced resumption of rulership by Michael. However, a record of the service of this unique Melchizedek Son, including 24 missions of universe emergency, is preserved in a simple temple near the home of the Father Melchizedek. This record certifies that this visitor in the likeness of a Melchizedek, lived, worked and faithfully performed all assignments. The record ends: "By universe consent he has become chief of Melchizedeks, having earned our love and adoration by his matchless wisdom, supreme love, and superb devotion to duty. He loved us, understood us, and served with us, and forever we are his loyal and devoted fellow Melchizedeks, for this stranger on our world has now eternally become a universe minister of Melchizedek nature."



Stabilization of our earth's crust began about 850 million years ago.

About this time trouble began with the protest of System Sovereign Lutentia involving a judgment passed by the Constellation Fathers and approved by the Faithful of Days. This System Sovereign was so dissatisfied by the verdict that he led a rebellion against the sovereignty of the Creator Son of Nebadon. When a new System Sovereign was requested, Michael took leave of his headquarters sphere, leaving authority in the hands of Immanuel. Three days later a new and unknown member of the order of primary Lanonandek Sons reported, bearing credentials from the Ancients of Days, certified by Immanuel, and requesting the new Son be assigned as acting System Sovereign to replace the disposed Lutentia. No System Sovereign was ever more loved, honored or respected. In justice and mercy he set the troubled system in order. He ministered to all his subjects and even offered to share the system throne with Lutentia if he would only apologize to Immanuel. Lutentia refused mercy knowing that this strange System Sovereign was Michael but millions of his misguided followers accepted forgiveness. When the permanent System Sovereign

arrived, all of Palonia mourned the loss of the noblest and kindest ruler ever known in Nebadon, called the Savior Sovereign. At the farewell celebration Lulentia sent this message: "Just and righteous are you in all your ways. While I continue in rejection of the Paradise rule, I am compelled to confess that you are a just and merciful administrator." Three days after this System Sovereign left, Michael assumed rule of Nebadon.



The formation of the continental land mass and oceans about 700 million years ago signaled that Urantia was approaching suitable conditions for the support of life.

About this time the Life Carriers of another planet requested an acting Planetary Prince. This planet's Prince had defaulted when their System Sovereign went astray, it being the second such rebellion in all of Nebadon up to this time. Having placed authority in the hands of Immanuel and bidding the Universe Mother Spirit good-bye, Michael vanished from the dispatching field of Salvington to appear unannounced three days later. The new and mysterious Material Son was appointed acting Planetary Prince of world 217 and worked alone for one whole generation on this quarantined world of succession and rebellion. He effected the repentance of the defaulting Planetary Prince and his whole staff and restored the planet to the loyal service of the Paradise rule. When a visible Material Son and Daughter arrived to the redeemed world, the emergency Planetary Prince took formal leave. Three days later Michael was in his place on Salvington and soon after, the superuniverse broadcasts carried the fourth proclamation announcing the further advancement of the sovereignty of Michael in Nebadon.



It was 550 million years ago that the original life patterns, in cooperation with spiritual and superphysical forces, were initiated simultaneously in three different water realms on Urantia.

Around this time the universe broadcasts reported the unannounced arrival of an unknown seraphim who tested out as belonging to the supreme order of the angels and was assigned to the corps of the teaching counselors. During that time he was a seraphic teaching counselor, what we might call a private secretary, and he worked for 26 different master teachers on 22 different worlds. His last assignment was as helper of a Trinity Teacher Son who was never sure as to the identity of his associate. Throughout this era all supreme seraphim were regarded with peculiar interest and scrutiny, knowing that the beloved Sovereign was abroad in the universe disguised as a seraphim. Concerning angels, their Creator and Ruler is "in all points tried and tested in the likeness of seraphic personality."



The transition from vegetable to animal life occurred 100 million years following the marine implantations, or about 450 million years ago. Sudden, yet predictable, developments would continue throughout the evolutionary march.

Four hundred million years ago vegetable and animal marine life was distributed over the whole planet when suddenly the first multicellular animals appeared and dominated the waters. Over the next 90 million years land elevations and sinkings occurred with natural displacement of the waters. The land plants thus migrated farther and farther from the seashores.

A little over 300 million years ago Michael transferred universe authority to Immanuel and announced that his destination was Uversa, headquarters of our superuniverse Orvonton. The

Uversa broadcasts soon reported that an unannounced and unnumbered ascendant pilgrim of mortal origin from Nebadon had arrived accompanied by Gabriel of Nebadon and that he was a true spirit received into their fellowship. Eventod, as he was called, was a superb personality in the exact likeness of the spirit stage of the ascending mortals. He lived and performed the duties of a spirit mortal in common with his fellows from the various local universes of Orvonton. He proved worthy of the confidence and trust of his superiors, and worthy of the respect and loyal admiration of his fellows. He advanced with a group of ascending mortals to Havona whereupon he met with the Ancients of Days and then immediately left Uversa in the company of Gabriel to soon appear on Salvington.

Apparently Michael was incarnating in the likeness of his various orders of universe personalities from the highest Melchizedeks, (and probably) right on down to the mortals of flesh and blood. Much speculation is made regarding the technique whereby a universe Creator could assume the personality, and live the life, of one of his own subordinate creatures. But, it remains a mystery to all but the Sons who incarnate.



Another 30 million years passed, (340 million years ago), and the sudden appearance of the fish family occurred followed by the sudden appearance of the fern family on land. As the fern family overran the land, the carbon dioxide levels dropped.

About 210 million years ago, suddenly from the briny waters, land snails, scorpions and frogs crawled out upon the land. Soon after, insects appeared along with spiders, cockroaches, crickets and locusts to cover the land. Gradually the marine life era diminished and the second stage of evolution developed on land.

About 150 million years ago Michael announced that for his sixth bestowal he would assume the career of a morontia mortal of ascending status. He also announced that his seventh and final bestowal would be in the likeness of mortal flesh on some evolutionary world. Before leaving Salvington with a seraphim and Gabriel, he addressed the assembled inhabitants and then left in full view of everyone. On all points, the morontia mortal known as Endantum, was tested like his fellows assembled from the material worlds of an entire constellation. Michael was the friend and sympathetic helper of even the lowest form of created intelligence. Having been informed in advance of his return, millions upon millions of beings gathered in celebration of Michael's return. In response to expressions of appreciation of a Sovereign so vitally interested in his creatures, Michael replied, "I have simply been about my Father's business. I am only doing the pleasure of the Paradise Sons who love and crave to understand their creatures."



About 140 million years ago reptilian dinosaurs suddenly appeared. Over a span of 25 million years the dinosaur age peaked and receded. They had evolved into larger and larger creatures requiring enormous amounts of food and they lacked the intelligence to survive. Finally, when the land was so overcrowded by dinosaurs, they literally starved to death.

Suddenly, 90 million years ago, the flowering trees appeared. Pines, redwoods and other trees replaced the fern forests. Twenty five million years later, just as suddenly, the family of flowering plants mutated and over spread the world.

The evolutionary march continued and 55 million years ago the first of the true birds suddenly appeared. Five million years later, from reptilian ancestors, suddenly sprang the first of the early mammals. They evolved to live on land, in treetops, in the air and under the water.

More modern types of mammals began to make their appearance 30 million years ago. At that time there suddenly appeared hoofed types such as the horse. Also the early ancestors of the lemurs made their first appearance. By the close of this age the ancestral forms of most living things were then alive. Changing climate and terrain continued the migration and adaptation of living things.

About one million years ago there occurred three sudden mutations of the lemur type of mammal which would become ancestors of the human species. Among the offspring of Asiatic migrants of the older North American lemur types there suddenly appeared the dawn mammals. Just seventy generations later, suddenly, a new and higher group of mid-mammals appeared. This was followed by the third sudden mutation and the Primates appeared.

Urantia was registered as an inhabited planet when the progressing Primates suddenly produced two Primate human beings, the ancestors of mankind.

The Establishment of the Human Races

Celestial Activity

The ancestry of the human species came from early lemurs, as did the modern type of lemurs, gibbons and apes. These early lemurs, now extinct, were ancestors to both species; we did not evolve from modern lemurs, gibbons or apes. The direct ancestry of mankind took place in southwestern Asia, then migrating to the Persian or Mesopotamian peninsula. The superior descendants of this early lemur type of mammal founded two great groups: the modern simian tribes and the present day human species. Man and ape are related only in that they sprang from the mid-mammals.

The two superior mid-mammals were twins, one male and one female, and they were the direct animal ancestors of the first humans. These two primates stood erect and grew to a height of over five feet. They learned to communicate by signs and sounds, although they could not make the rest of their tribe understand them. Finally, when about 14 years old, they fled from their tribe and established a new species, the Primates, on the west coast of the Mesopotamian Sea.

The period of time from the dawn mammals to the mid-mammals and to those two superior Primates covered about 21,000 years, when suddenly the first two humans were born. The birth of these twins occurred 993,475 years ago (from the year 2000). These two humans, a male and a female, had perfect human feet and thumbs. In general appearance they most closely resembled today's Eskimos. New emotions such as admiration, vanity, and the worshipful emotions such as awe, reverence, gratitude and humility all developed. Ignorance of natural phenomena and fear gave birth to primitive religion. The twins learned to communicate verbally but could not teach much to their parents. One day, when about nine years old, they decided to live with and for each other, and to flee their tribe. Fear of displeasing their father and of being hunted down by their tribe postponed this decision, but they did make plans. They were about 11 years old when the plan to leave was realized. Just before leaving, there was a gibbon raid during which their mother was killed while protecting them; their father arrived to defeat the gibbons, but the twins went through with their plan, fleeing northward that very night. Their father was so heartbroken he refused to eat, and he later wandered off into the forest where he was beaten to death by hostile gibbons.

Throughout evolution the Life Carriers witnessed this progress but before the planetary circuit could be established the highest mind ministers had to function in the evolutionary mind. When the twins were 10 years old the spirit of worship made its first contact and then when the final decision to flee was made, the spirit of wisdom began to function on Urantia. This was the establishment on Urantia of mind of will dignity and acknowledgment came from Salvington, Edentia, and Jerusem. The age long supervision of the planet by the Life Carriers was ended.

The twins called themselves Sonta-an, meaning "loved by mother" and Sonta-en, meaning "loved by father". Throughout Nebadon they were known as Andon, meaning "the first Fatherlike creature to show human perfection hunger" and Fonta, meaning "the first Sonlike creature to show human perfection hunger". But not until their time of Thought Adjuster fusion did they have the names Andon and Fonta bestowed upon them.

Andon discovered the idea of fire from chips of flint on their northward journey but not until the nights grew cold did they try to start a fire. For two months they tried unsuccessfully to ignite pieces of wood when Fonta thought to use an old bird's nest as kindling. This discovery allowed them to defy the climate and forever made them independent of their animal relatives.

Andon and Fonta's first child was born about two years after leaving. They named him Sontad and wrapped him in protective coverings, which characterized proper care for newborn humans whose intellect would evolve

over the purely animal. Nineteen children, almost 50 grandchildren and six great grandchildren would be born in their lifetime. All of these Andonites demonstrated a clannish spirit, hunting together and living in semi-caves that interconnected.

It was at the age of 42 that falling rocks from an earthquake killed Andon, Fonta, five children, and 11 grandchildren. Sontad then assumed leadership of the clan with his wife, his eldest sister. For 20 generations this family of Andon and Fonta held together until food competition and social tension brought about dispersion of the Andonites. And so, the descendants of Andon and Fonta moved westward to establish over 1,000 settlements in what is now France. For thousands of years they lived along the river Somme, camping near the edge of forests and streams. As the Ice Age descended south, their descendants had to live in caves for protection.

Over the next 10,000 years the Andonite culture and spiritual status stagnated. The hunger urge led to a form of animal worship by the Andonites. Various forms of animal worship such as the Christian doctrine of atonement for sin by the "shedding of blood" and the early Hebrew animal sacrifices originated with the early Andonites. After 10,000 years, a leader named Onagar brought peace and led the tribes in the worship of the "Breath Giver to men and animals". Onagar evangelized his new doctrines of one God, or Deity, and a life after death called the "Great Beyond". His people were the first to cook meat instead of eating raw flesh. But this golden age of primitive man subsequently deteriorated and was at its lowest 900,000 years ago or roughly 100,000 years after the birth of Andon and Fonta.

About 850,000 years ago descendants of Badonan, a great-great-grandson of Andon, began the extermination of their inferior and animalistic neighbors who had so mixed with the forest apelike creatures that they were hardly human. The descendants of this mixed but improved Badonite stock were termed a new people -- the Neanderthals. The Neanderthals dominated the world for almost 500,000 years. They made tools of flints, were excellent fighters and traveled extensively. They drifted, hunted, and fought, and on the whole made little progress. Their very primitive religion was based on horrible fears of natural forces such as clouds, mists, fogs, and especially the dark. When the moon shone, they managed their fear but on moonless nights they would panic and sacrifice their best tribes-people to persuade the moon to shine again. And, human sacrifice long persisted even though the purpose changed.

About 500,000 years ago in the northwestern highlands of India, lived about 100 Badonan families (Neanderthal). They were the most superior descendants of Andon and Fonta living then. One of these families, the Sangik (San-gick) family began suddenly to bear children with unusually high intellect and with the unique tendency to turn various colors when exposed to sunlight. They became the ancestors of the six colored races of Urantia.

On other evolutionary planets the sequence is: first the red man evolves, and ages later, one by one, the remaining five colored races make their appearance, followed by the first will-creatures (the Andon and Fonta of the planet) and then, the arrival of the Planetary Prince and his staff. Urantia however, has proved to be most unusual in that Andon and Fonta evolved first, then the six evolutionary races appeared simultaneously and in one family, and the arrival of our Planetary Prince occurred nearly a half a million years after the appearance of human will.

Of the 19 children in the Sangik family, five were red. The red peoples were remarkable and in many ways superior to Andon and Fonta. They were the most intelligent group. They established a tribal civilization and government, and they did not practice plural mating. They unfortunately became weakened from fighting among themselves. They also did not get along with their yellow brethren in Asia and were driven out. About 85,000 years ago the almost pure red race migrated to North America and a decline in intelligence and spiritual culture followed. They would have become extinct from tribal wars except for the appearance of a great spiritual leader, Onamonalonton, who brought peace and revived the worship of God, the "Great Spirit". Many of his descendants are among the Blackfoot Indians. But, again, tribal wars prevented the establishment of a great civilization. When the white man discovered North America, the red man would not serve and could

not rule. When two races do not blend, one of them is doomed.

Of the Sangik family two children were orange: The orange people were builders; they loved building anything and even built up huge mounds of stone just to see which tribe could build the biggest mound. Porshunta was their wisest leader about 300,000 years ago. The orange people lived along the Nile until killed off by the green people almost 100,000 years ago, survivors being absorbed by the green and indigo people.

Four of the Sangik children were yellow: The yellow people developed a brotherly spirit among themselves and developed agriculture-based homes and communities. They entered a period of great spiritual darkness until about 100,000 years ago when a brilliant leader named Singlangton proclaimed the worship of the "One Truth". The survival of the yellow man in modern China is contributed to their being one of the more peaceful nations of Urantia.

Two of the Sangik children were green: One of the less progressive groups was the green race. They had a cultural leader named Fantad early in their establishment, who led them in worship of "The One Source of Life". Their later migration from the highlands of India into three areas greatly weakened them. Those that went to Africa destroyed their almost equally inferior orange cousins. Both races had leaders with giant strain characteristics, many being eight and nine feet tall. Most of the giant strain green race were in Egypt and later blended with the indigo race.

Four of the Sangik children were blue: The blue people had the intelligence of the red man and the soul and sentiment of the yellow man. They were most responsive to the Planetary Prince's staff and were thrown into confusion and turmoil when the Lucifer rebellion occurred. Fortunately about 500 years later a great teacher named Orlandof led many tribes back to the worship of the true God known as "Supreme Chief". Later they were upstepped again by the descendants of Adam and Eve who preferred the blue people to the other persisting colored races. The artifacts from the Old Stone Age are those of the blue race. Today's white races are descendants of the blue people, slightly mixed with the yellow and red people.

Two of the Sangik children were indigo: The black people, last to migrate, took over Africa and, except when taken as slaves from time to time, they remained. Because they were isolated, like the red man, neither received the benefit of mixing with the descendants of Adam and Eve. Orvonon was a great spiritual leader and enlightener of the indigo peoples who taught about the "God of Gods".

Thus was the founding of the human species nearly a million years ago and the birth of the evolutionary colored races about a half a million years ago.

The First Epochal Revelation on Urantia

Concurrent with the appearance of the six colored races about 500,000 years ago, the Planetary Prince, Caligastia (Cal-ah-gast'-eyah), and staff arrived. There were almost a half billion primitive humans scattered over Europe, Asia and Africa at the time, and the Prince's headquarters was established at the center of world population in Mesopotamia.

Caligastia was a Lanonandek Son of the secondary order and had completed five assignments of honor and trust while a personal staff member of our System Sovereign, Lucifer. No other Planetary Prince had richer preparatory experience. Urantia was considered fortunate to be getting such an experienced, brilliant, and original mind.

Caligastia repeatedly sought a commission as Planetary Prince and several times was not approved until he was finally assigned to Urantia. He had a record of loyalty and devotion, which was enviable, but he did have a restlessness about him and a tendency to disagree in certain minor matters regarding established order. And, Caligastia was secretly developing personality pride; he was falling in love with himself.

As usual, a corps of assistants and administrative aids were sent with the Planetary Prince. Daligastia, (Dal-ah-gast'-eyah), also a secondary Lanonandek Son, was head of this group and the assistant to Caligastia. In honor of Daligastia, the Prince's headquarters was named Dalamatia (Dal-ah-may'-shah).

Of the planetary staff, the corporeal members, known as *the Caligastia one hundred*, were most fascinating. From over 785,000 ascendant citizens of Jerusem, Caligastia chose 100 for the Urantia mission. Each chosen member was from a different planet of origin and none were from Urantia.

The 100 arrived by seraphic transporters. The Life Carriers, with approval, had an extracted portion of life plasm from 50 human males and 50 human females, representing the survival of the best strains of the Andon and Fonta descendants. This living material was transplanted into the constructed material bodies of the Caligastia 100. From the time of arrival, the creation of special bodies, and the transfer of life plasm, until consciousness, took exactly ten days. Much of our mythology grew out of the garbled legends regarding the repersonalization on Urantia of the Caligastia 100.

The corporeal staff of 50 men and 50 women were relatively human since they embodied the life plasm of one of the human races -- the Andonic life plasm of Urantia. However, they were fully satisfied by a vegetarian diet and this custom influenced the exclusively meat-eating evolutionary races.

The staff, being of dual nature, was provided bodies also attuned to the life circuits of the system. The life currents of the system, which circulated through their material forms and prevented aging and death, were derived from the fruit of the Tree of Life, sent from Edentia. The 100 Andonites that contributed their human plasm were modified at the time of donation to the life currents of the system and thus would live concurrently with the staff by partaking of the fruit from the Tree of Life. This fruit however, was of no value to any of the other humans.

The Caligastia 100 were personally immortal, or undying. They were to live on Urantia indefinitely until the arrival of a subsequent Son of God, or until their sometime later release to resume their interrupted journey to Havona and Paradise. But, each had volunteered, gone through the intense selection process, and undoubtedly been trained for the mission.

The corporeal staff, with rematerialized bodies, were capable of producing a new order of physical beings but were instructed not to do so except under certain conditions. Although they followed their instructions and did not engage in sexual reproduction they did explore every imaginable phase of mind and soul liaison. During the thirty-third year on Urantia two of the staff accidentally discovered a phenomenon of their morontia (soul) liaison, supposedly nonsexual and nonmaterial. They created the first primary midway creature, visible to the staff and celestial beings, but invisible to ordinary humans. Caligastia authorized the entire corporeal staff to

produce similar beings and eventually the original corps of 50,000 primary Midwayers was created.

The Caligastia one hundred were organized into the following ten councils:

1. The council on food and material welfare
2. The board of animal domestication and utilization
3. The advisors regarding the conquest of predatory animals
4. The faculty on dissemination and conservation of knowledge
5. The commission on industry and trade
6. The college of revealed religion
7. The guardians of health and life
8. The planetary council on art and science
9. The governors of advanced tribal relations
10. The supreme court of tribal coordination and racial cooperation

Each commission wisely set out slowly and naturally to advance the interests entrusted to them. They trained and inspired the superior individuals of the surrounding tribes and, upon request, sent them back to their people as emissaries of social uplift.

It is a mistake to rob mankind of their evolutionary development and progress, albeit primitive religion and morals take ages to acquire. The Caligastia 100 well knew the arts and culture of Jerusem, however, such knowledge was nearly valueless on a barbaric planet populated by primitive humans. Enlightened and superior beings must avoid upliftment of the backward races by over-teaching.

Slavery to tradition produces stability, but it also suppresses initiative and the creative powers of individuals. All of Urantia was stalemated by tradition until the Caligastia 100 arrived to proclaim and teach individual initiative within the social groups of that day.

The one great task was to slowly transform man from a hunter to a herder, hoping he would later evolve into a peace-loving, home-abiding farmer. The process of uplifting the social customs of the simple folk of Urantia, through association with a higher culture with superior minds, was slow but effective. “The motive is progression by evolution—not revolution by revelation.”

And, for 300,000 years they slowly worked.

Failure of the First Epochal Revelation

The Lucifer Rebellion

Caligastia had been the Planetary Prince of Urantia for 300,000 years, assisted by Daligastia, numerous celestial hosts, the rematerialized Caligastia 100 and their modified human associates. Lucifer was the System Sovereign and Satan was Lucifer's first assistant. At this time Satan made one of his periodic inspection calls and informed Caligastia of Lucifer's plan to announce his "Declaration of Liberty." Prince Caligastia, with premeditation, agreed to betray Urantia upon the announcement of rebellion.

Error suggests lack of intellectual keenness -- misunderstanding; evil, deficiency of wisdom -- maladjustment; sin, abject spiritual poverty -- a conscious choosing to oppose spiritual progress. But iniquity, (habitual, persistent sin), is indicative of vanishing personality control -- personality disintegration such as to border on cosmic insanity.

Soon after Satan's inspection, Caligastia had a long conference with Daligastia and then the two called an extraordinary meeting of the ten councils. It was announced that Caligastia would proclaim himself absolute sovereign of Urantia and all the groups should turn over their functions and powers to Daligastia until they reorganized.

Van, chairman of the supreme council of coordination, convinced everyone not to participate in this act of planetary rebellion until they appealed to Lucifer. Not knowing of Lucifer's involvement or plans for rebellion, they were shocked that the orders from Lucifer designated Caligastia as supreme sovereign on Urantia and demanded unquestioning allegiance.

During Van's subsequent seven-hour address, he formally charged Daligastia, Caligastia, and Lucifer as standing in contempt of the sovereignty of the universe of Nebadon. Additionally, Van appealed to the Most Highs of Edentia for support and confirmation. Meantime, without warning, the system circuits had been severed: Urantia was isolated—utterly cut off from all outside counsel and advice. This was due to the magnificent being Lucifer. He had issued his manifesto in Jerusem and all incoming, outgoing, and interplanetary broadcasts stopped in the system of Satania.

Stated in the Lucifer Declaration of Liberty was:

(1.) The reality of the Universal Father: Lucifer charged that the Universal Father was a myth invented by the Paradise Sons so that they could control the universes. He said the Father did not exist and the finaliters were in collusion with the Paradise Sons. Essentially, he claimed God was a hoax—a big lie—and all who claimed to have seen the Father were liars.

(2.) The universal government of the Creator Son Michael: Lucifer acknowledged Michael as his Creator-father but claimed Michael had no right to rule Nebadon in the name of a hypothetical Paradise Father. He further claimed that the planets should rule themselves and that eternal life was automatic except for the executions of the Ancients of Days.

(3.) The attack upon the universal plan of ascendant mortal training: Lucifer condemned the entire plan of mortal ascension, claiming too much time and energy went into thoroughly training mortals for some unknown, fictitious destiny. He claimed ascenders should enjoy the liberty of individual self-determination.

Satan then proclaimed Lucifer the "friend of men and angels" and the "god of liberty". Planetary Princes were promised supreme rule if they sided with Lucifer and could voluntarily

join the local systems confederation, organized by Lucifer under the direction of Satan.

Michael sought the advice of his Paradise brother, Immanuel, and after their conference, Michael announced he would follow the same policy he had used with the other two system rebellions in the past, which was an attitude of non-interference. Gabriel then assumed command of the loyal beings of Satania on behalf of the Creator Son whose authority had been challenged. He established himself on the Jerusem sphere dedicated to the Father and displayed the material emblem of the Trinity government of all creation—the three azure blue concentric circles on a white background.

There was a terrible war in heaven. Not a physical war for this was much worse—eternal life was in jeopardy. Various personalities journeyed to hear Lucifer in the planetary amphitheater and then to hear Gabriel; they went back and forth until they arrived at a final decision. And, each being was free to choose.

It was over two years of system time before Lucifer's successor was appointed. Thirty-seven Planetary Princes committed their worlds to the Lucifer cause. Lucifer and his followers were dethroned and lost all governing powers but were permitted to go freely about the system, even to the planets. The last time Lucifer and Satan were present on our world was when they joined together to confront the Son of Man. Not until the completion of Michael's final bestowal was the Lucifer rebellion ended in Satania and the first steps of the hearing of his case begun.

Seven crucial years passed from the time the planetary circuits were severed. The traitorous Prince Caligastia led the disloyal rebels, and Van assembled the faithful. Only 9,881 Midwayers out of 50,000 remained loyal but they faithfully guarded their new unwalled and poorly protected settlement east of Dalamatia for Van; and his group had possession of the priceless Tree of Life. Of the Caligastia 100, only 40 remained loyal, including Van, and of the 100 modified Andonites, 56 remained loyal; and these 96 beings were allowed to eat from the fruit of the Tree of Life.

The 60 rebellious members of the Caligastia 100 chose Nod as their leader. Realizing that without the Tree of Life they were doomed to extinction, Caligastia ordered them to start sexually reproducing. Their descendants were known as the Nodites (Nod-ites) and their dwelling place was called the land of Nod.

For seven long years Van waited without word. His unshakable "loyalty to the universe government was the product of clear thinking, wise reasoning, logical judgment, sincere motivation, unselfish purpose, intelligent loyalty, experiential memory, disciplined character, and the unquestioning dedication of his personality to the doing of the will of the Father in Paradise."

The outstanding human hero of the Lucifer rebellion was Amadon (Am'-ah-don), a male descendant of Andon and Fonta who contributed his life plasm to the Prince's staff, and who was Van's human associate and assistant. Amadon, without universe experience and with a minimum of intelligence, resisted all of the deceptive teachings of the brilliant, experienced, and highly intelligent Caligastia.

Upon the arrival of the Melchizedeks, the loyal personalities of immortality status (except Van and Amadon) were taken to Jerusem. The loyal Andonite mortals (not plasm donors) became known as Amadonites under the leadership of Van and Amadon. The descendants of the Amadonites were a biologic upliftment during the post rebellion era and continued to furnish leadership for the world.

Van and Amadon, sustained by the Tree of Life, the specialized life ministry of the council of 12 Melchizedeks,

and the advisory council, remained on Urantia for over 150,000 years.

The present status of the Lucifer rebellion, as of the time of the presentation of The Urantia Papers, was the first hearing in the case of Gabriel vs. Lucifer. Since Michael's final bestowal, Lucifer had been detained on a prison world of Jerusem and Satan joined him when the case recently opened. Also at the time of Michael's bestowal, the dethroned Caligastia was judged but left free on Urantia. Caligastia has absolutely no power over any human unless they really desire to be cursed with his sinful presence. The faithful children of God have nothing to fear because Caligastia has no power or influence over them.

To understand the Lucifer rebellion it is necessary to understand liberty. Uncontrolled self-will and self-expression is pure selfishness—false liberty that leads to the unjust power over others. No being has the right to deny any other being the right to love and be loved, the privilege of worshipping God and of serving his fellows, nor does any being have the right to deny another being the prerogatives of will and the potentials of personality. Lucifer and his associates put their self-motivated wills against the eternal purpose of God's will and thereby tried to deny mortals the freewill choice and experience attainment of the Father.

Because Caligastia "sold us out", we, along with the other rebellious planets, were placed in isolation more than 250,000 years ago to protect the loyal worlds from contamination. We cannot begin to know what it must be like to have free, open planetary communication with the rest of creation. We can only speculate what it must be like to have the circuits open.

As a planet we share the repercussions for the choices Caligastia made as our Planetary Prince much the same way we experience the results of the decisions and actions made by the President of our country. We are not personally responsible for the Lucifer rebellion or Prince Caligastia's betrayal of Urantia; however, we are personally responsible for what we do as individuals regardless of the unfortunate circumstances. While our planet may be in isolation, we as individuals are just as loved, cared for, and ministered to as always.

Information on the Lucifer Rebellion - The third and last rebellion in the local universe of Nebadon

System of Satania information regarding the Lucifer rebellion				
Origin & Other Information	Total Number		Number remaining loyal to Michael of Nebadon	Number joining Lucifer rebellion
System Sovereign - Lucifer	1			1 – initiated system-wide rebellion in Satania
Planetary Princes	Potentially 1,000 Existed 619		582 worlds remained loyal in the system	37 – Planetary Princes committed their worlds to the rebellion
World of Urantia information regarding the Lucifer rebellion				
Planetary Prince-Caligastia			Withstood the sophistries of the rebels and remained loyal	Committed Urantia to rebel cause
Caligastia 100	10 councils			
Van: court of coordination Leader of loyal men, midwayers, and angels			10	0
Nod: industry and trade Leader of rebels			0	10
Ang: food & material welfare			4	6
Bon: animal husbandry			0	10
Dan: animal conquest			0	10
Fad: education			6	4
Hap: revealed religion			10	0
Lut: health			0	10
Mek: arts and sciences			10	0
Tut: tribal government			0	10
100 modified human associates Amadon being the human hero			56	44
Primary Midwayers	50,000		9,881	40,119
Secondary Midwayers (after Adam & Eve)	1,984		1,111	873

The Interim - Evolution Continues

Mortal will creatures are termed primitive men up to the arrival of the Planetary Prince and then a new dispensation begins. On *normal* worlds this is the era when government appears on earth and a high state of civilization develops. The first revelations of higher truth and universe organization are presented to a primitive world with an evolved religion of fear and ignorance.

Religion then progresses by graduated revelation as well as by evolutionary growth. But, this is not the age of "the Prince of Peace". Racial struggles and tribal wars continue and then culminate in intense nationalism. This national life begins to replace tribal organization.

However, the great social achievement of this age is the emergence of family life and the realization of sex equality—this being preliminary to the fuller realization of the ideals of home life. Also, the age of agriculture, supportive of home life, makes its appearance. The plan of promoting the increase of the higher types of mortals and curtailment of the lower is also an achievement of this age. "But life on an inhabited world is so changed by rebellion that you can have little or no idea of such a regime on a normal planet."

Van and Amadon remained for over 150,000 years after the Lucifer rebellion. The twelve Melchizedeks preserved the remnants of civilization and their policies were faithfully carried out by Van. Within a thousand years following the rebellion there were over 300 advanced groups of Andonites slightly mixed with the Sangik races and Nodites scattered throughout the world.

The Andonites were the first human race—the aborigines, while the Sangik races were the six colored races stemming from the same Sangik family. The Nodites were descendants of the rebel members of the Prince's staff—the rematerialized beings that received the human life plasm but became mortal after the rebellion—and they constituted the eighth race of Urantia.

Following the destruction of Dalamatia, the Nodites divided into three groups: one remained near the Persian Gulf, one migrated east of the Euphrates Valley, and one group went west to the Syrian shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The Nodites freely mixed with the Sangik races, and some of their descendants later joined Van and his loyal followers north of Mesopotamia near Lake Van. These Nodites and Amadonites (followers of Van and Amadon) were among the "mighty men of old"—they were the most advanced and cultured peoples on earth.

The work of fostering the natural evolution of the human race continued until Urantia warranted the dispatch of a Material Son and Daughter.

Suggested Reading

The Urantia Papers (68-71) describe the evolution of civilization, culture, education, industry, nationalism, and government. These insightful papers give a detailed account of how and why mankind evolved to our recent stages in only 44 pages. These papers offer a wonderful background and contrast to Paper 72, "Government on a Neighboring Planet."

The Second Epochal Revelation

Celestial Activity

The physical or biologic status of the Urantia peoples evolved rather normally but cultural decadence and spiritual poverty swiftly followed the Lucifer rebellion. Van and his associates preached the coming of a Son of God, a racial uplifter, teacher of truth, and worthy successor of the traitorous Prince, but the majority of people did not care or have any interest.

Eighty-three years before the arrival of Adam and Eve, Van and Amadon had gathered over 3,000 willing workers dedicated to preparing for the expected Son. It took three years to select the site that would become the Garden of Eden. It was a long narrow peninsula, almost an island, because the connecting area was only 27 miles wide. The peninsula projected westward from the eastern shores of the Mediterranean Sea. The next two years were spent moving the world's cultural headquarters, including the Tree of Life, to the new site.

The Garden was to be a park of floral beauty and grandeur. Animals were kept on the mainland and any meat for the workers was brought over. Never were animals slaughtered in the Garden.

The architectural plans for Eden provided land, homes and other buildings for one million people. Administrative buildings were to the north; to the west would be the schools; to the south were built homes for the volunteer workers; while "east of Eden" homes were built for the promised Son and his offspring. At the center of the Garden of Eden was the exquisite stone temple for worship of the Universal Father, and Van planted the Tree of Life in the middle of the temple.

When only one-fourth complete, the Garden had thousands of miles of irrigation ditches, over 12,000 miles of paved paths and roads, over 5,000 brick buildings and so many trees and plants they were beyond number. Sanitary regulations kept the water pure and waste was buried until they later established a sewage disposal system. Not until the nineteenth and twentieth centuries did mankind again have such advanced health and disease prevention techniques.

When the request calling for volunteers for the Adamic adventure on Urantia was made, the entire senior corps of Material Sons and Daughters volunteered. The Adam and Eve chosen had been employed in the trial and testing labs of Jerusem and for 15,000 years they directed the division of experimental energy as applied to the modification of living forms. Prior to this work they had been teachers in the citizenship schools for new arrivals on Jerusem.

The couple was examined and instructed as to the responsibilities of rulership on such a strife-torn world. They each took oaths of allegiance to the Most Highs of Edentia and to Michael of Salvington. Initially they would be subject to the Melchizedeks on Urantia until the Melchizedeks decided to give up rulership to Adam and Eve.

Adam and Eve were accompanied by their 100 children to the dematerialization headquarters of their order. The children rejoiced that their parents would be the visible rulers of planet 606 in the system of Satania. The children bid them good-bye and divine speed as Adam and Eve fell asleep in the personality lapse of consciousness prior to seraphic transport.

At noon and unannounced, the seraphic transports settled slowly to the surface near the temple of the Universal Father on Urantia 37,914 years ago (from the year 2000). Ten days passed before the rematerialized Adam and Eve simultaneously regained consciousness in the temple and were greeted by Van and Amadon. Adam and Eve, the founders of the violet race, had a difficult job ahead. They would not begin the program of racial upliftment until their own family reached one-half million pure offspring.

Thousands of people would come to see them over the next few months but Adam and Eve were painfully aware of their isolation and loneliness. They missed the familiar broadcasts and interplanetary communications. On a normal world they would have worked with the Planetary Prince and his experienced staff. Instead, there was broadcast silence and a fallen Prince making their work difficult. By the end of the first week the enthusiastic and excited people had decided Adam and Eve were really gods worthy of worship. Adam explained the orders of divine sonship and that they were to worship no one but God. It became the custom to worship the Father in the temple the seventh day of the week and this was the origin of the Sabbath day.

After seven years the Melchizedeks turned the administration of world affairs over to Adam and returned to Jerusem. Things went fairly well inside the Garden but anytime Adam and Eve tried to improve the outside world they met the direct and well-planned resistance of Caligastia and Daligastia. The people outside of Eden were savages, barbarians, and semi-civilized human beings and although Adam tried to warn them against Caligastia it was incredibly difficult since Caligastia and Daligastia were invisible to them.

Adam and Eve had initiated and taught the people inside the Garden about many, many things: prayer and worship, sex equality and home life, health and sanitation, trade and commerce, social and civil codes of behavior, and their school system was unsurpassed. After 117 years, four generations, their family numbered 1,647 pure-line Adamites. But progress seemed impossible outside of the Garden among people in spiritual darkness whose minds and morals were at a low level and who spoke a thousand different local languages. These people were wholly unprepared for unity or the proclamation of the brotherhood of man.

It is unlikely that any other Adam and Eve of Nebadon faced such a difficult or enormous undertaking but success was a matter of settling down to the long, long test of endurance. Both however grew impatient, especially Eve, and it was through Eve's impatience and Adam's errors of judgment that they deviated from the ordained plan, "speedily bringing disaster upon themselves and ruinous retardation upon the developmental progression of all Urantia."

Default of the Second Epochal Revelation

Celestial Activity

Eve had been instructed before the Urantia mission of the dangers ahead and warned not to stray from the side of her mate. Caligastia visited Adam and Eve often but they, and even their children, were not in the least influenced by suggestions of compromise or short cuts.

The determined Caligastia decided to give up working on Adam and to lay a trap for Eve, the mother of the violet race, through the use of certain Nodite members.

Serapatia (Sair-ah-pah-tay'-shah) became leader of the confederation of Nodite tribes at the time Adam had finished his first 100 years in the Garden. Serapatia was honest, sincere, and very impressed with Adam's work and he gave his full support to Adam's program. The majority of his people then followed, and Adam and Eve were greatly pleased with this progress.

Serapatia never knew Caligastia was using him. Soon Serapatia was on the commission of tribal relations and he met with Adam and Eve—especially Eve—to discuss plans for improvement.

One day Serapatia had an idea while talking to Eve. He sincerely believed that if the Nodites, being the most progressive and cooperative race, had a leader born to them that was part origin in the violet race, then they would have a powerful tie binding them to the Garden. He believed this would be the best thing for the world and it would be real progress. Under such circumstances, Serapatia would see progressive results in his own lifetime. These plans secretly grew for over five years and at last, Eve agreed to a secret meeting with a Nodite leader named Cano.

Cano was extremely handsome. He had a brilliant mind. He was enthusiastic and supportive of both the Adamic and Serapatia plans. Additionally, he was the sincere spiritual leader of the near-by colony of friendly Nodites. Before Eve quite realized what was happening, and being influenced by the utterly charming Cano, she agreed to go through with the Serapatia plan. Eve added her own impatient ideas and support to the more far-reaching divine plan and took the fatal step.

Adam knew something was wrong as soon as he saw Eve. He soon heard the whole story from Eve of the Serapatia plan, which was then operating with the divine plan. Eve had agreed to join in the practice of good and evil.

“Good” was carrying out the divine plan according to their oaths of trust, while “evil” was the misadaptation of plans resulting in disharmony and planetary confusion. Adam understood the whole situation immediately and had only pity and sympathy for his erring mate. Eve was truly pathetic as the realization of default swept over her.

Adam could not bear the thought of serving alone on Urantia, and so, the next day he looked for Laotta, the brilliant Nodite woman who was head of the Garden schools. Adam then purposely made the same foolish choice Eve had made. Adam, in his love for Eve, deliberately chose to share the same fate as his mate.

When the people in the Garden heard what had happened to Eve they went wild. They declared war on the near-by colony and killed every man, woman, and child. Cano, the father of the unborn child, Cain, which Eve carried, was also killed. Serapatia was so overcome by guilt and fear that he drowned himself in the river.

Adam wandered alone for 30 days, which was excruciatingly painful for Eve. Their children tried to comfort her but not knowing where Adam was, or what had happened to him, it was terrifying for them all. Adam returned to make plans for their future although he was not sure of the nature of their offense.

It was 70 days from the default of Eve, when the Melchizedeks returned to take back rulership over the world affairs of Urantia. Adam then knew they had failed, but he did not know what would happen—how they would

be judged. Still there were more problems.

News spread of the killing of the Nodites in the near-by colony and the other settlements were preparing to attack the Garden. Adam, Eve, their children and 1,200 faithful followers left the Garden to find new homes.

Three days later their caravan was stopped by seraphic transports from Jerusem. It was declared that Adam and Eve's children who were under the age of 20 would be taken to Edentia as wards of the Most Highs. Those over the age of 20 could choose to also go or they could remain on Urantia with their parents. Two thirds chose to go to Edentia as wards of the Most Highs. Adam and Eve, who had begun their mission with such high hopes, who had left the Garden in disgrace, would have to continue with the loss of more than three-fourths of their children.

While the caravan was stopped, Gabriel appeared to announce that the Planetary Adam and Eve of Urantia had been judged. Adam and Eve were in default for violating their agreement of trust as rulers of Urantia and such default now rendered them mortal.

Adam and Eve would live out their lives as a man and woman of Urantia. Adam and Eve were greatly relieved to have been judged in default rather than in contempt or rebellion of the universe government. Had they only been more patient they would have been successful eventually.

The Public announcement that Michael had selected Urantia for his final bestowal was made. All eyes watched the small but highly honored world of Urantia where Michael would take the most precarious step in his entire career.

The Second Garden

The land between the Euphrates and Tigris Rivers became home to the second garden. While on the journey, Laotta died giving birth to her daughter, Sansa. Eve, who was stronger, survived the birth of Cain and raised Sansa with her son.

Abel was the first child born to Adam and Eve in the second garden. He often reminded Cain that Adam was not his father and the boys grew to hate one another. One day when Abel was 18 years old he infuriated the 20 year old Cain so much with his taunts that Cain turned and killed Abel. When Adam and Eve learned what had happened, they supported Cain's decision to leave the garden. Cain thus went to the land of Nod and married Remona, his distant cousin. The Serapatia plan for a uniting of the Adamites and Nodites was somewhat realized as Cain brought great peace in his lifetime between the surrounding tribes.

Adamson, the firstborn child of the first Garden had chosen to remain on Urantia with his parents after the default but his mate and their 32 children had decided to go to Edentia. Adamson and 27 followers moved from the second garden and established a settlement. Adamson married Ratta, the last descendant of two of the fallen staff of the Planetary Prince. They gave origin not only to a great line of world leaders but also to the secondary midway creatures. Every fourth of their offspring was of a unique order, often invisible to mortals, but these 16 children lived and died as mortals. However, the 16 gave birth to 1,984 secondary Midwayers who live on and on but do not reproduce. Of the secondary Midwayers, 873 failed to align themselves with the rule of Michael. The remaining 1,111 loyal secondary Midwayers will continue to serve until our planet enters the final stages of Light and Life. The remaining children and descendants of Adamson and Ratta, the Adamsonites, maintained a high culture for nearly 7,000 years, fostering great civilizations in Greece, Mesopotamia, Europe and India.

Adam and Eve missed their deported children and the first Garden but this magnificent and noble couple faced their situation with grace. They greatly advanced the people in cultural achievement and intellectual development. They laid the foundations for art, science, literature, architecture, health and religion; and their education methods have never been surpassed.

Although the Urantia races received a limited Adamic heritage due to the default, the physical uplift was considerable. The life plasm of the founder of the violet race, the ninth race, mixed with the best strains of the Nodites, constituted the beginnings of the Andite race.

Adam and Eve had made serious errors in judgment but they did not deliberately sin or rebel. They often thought and were comforted by the only personal message they received from Michael which, in part, said: "I have given consideration to the circumstances of your default, I have remembered the desire of your hearts ever to be loyal to my Father's will, and you will be called from the embrace of mortal slumber when I come to Urantia if the subordinate Sons of my realm do not send for you before that time." Even though they did not understand the full meaning of this message, they always proclaimed that a Son of God would sometime come. They held a longing hope that the world of their blunders, strife-torn Urantia, would be the world selected by the Paradise bestowal Son—that after all, Urantia would turn out to be the most fortunate and envied planet of all Nebadon.

Eve died of a weakened heart at the age of 511 and Adam died 19 years later. Three days after Adam's death they were resurrected together with 1,316 of their associates from the first Garden. They had left Jerusem as Sons of God but they returned as sons of man—ascending mortals. They have been assigned among the 24 councilors who make up the present advisory group of Urantia.

The Interim - After the Second Garden

The second garden civilization was artificial in that it did not slowly evolve. All civilizations are limited by available natural resources, inherent genius, and adequate leisure time for creative invention. The violet race civilization was dependent on Adam's presence and the traditions of the first Garden and was destined to deteriorate to the levels of the surrounding peoples after Adam's death. Various centers of civilization existed from about 35,000 B.C. until their final disappearance about 2,000 B.C. but for the most part, outside of these centers, Urantia languished in savagery.

The Adamites were a real nation of about four and one half million people around 19,000 B.C. and their blending and racial distribution set the world stage for the Andite era of civilization extending from about 15,000 B.C. to 6,000 B.C. The Andites were the pure-line violet race (Adamites) and the Nodites plus the evolutionary races. The Andites had one-eighth to one-sixth racial inheritance from Adam and were the best human stock to appear on Urantia since the pure-line violet people.

As the pre-white Andites united more and more with the Nodites they became increasingly militant—peaceful migration grew to become actual conquests. These Andites were the later so-called Aryan conquerors of India. Many journeyed to China and 132 left Japan in a fleet of small boats reaching South America and established the ancestry of the later rulers of the Incas. These Andite sailors also biologically modified the Polynesian native groups and Easter Island was long a religious and administrative center of one of the lost groups.

As the Andites poured out of Mesopotamia from 8,000 to 6,000 B.C. their culture spread out over Europe, India, China, northern Africa and the Pacific Islands. The Andites passed from the pages of history due to the migration of their superior people who merged with their inferior neighbors. Remnants of the Garden culture persisted and can be found even in the twentieth-century civilizations of Urantia.

Suggested Reading

For anyone curious as to how we got "from there to here", Paper 81, Development of Modern Civilization, well answers this question.

The "religion" papers (85 through 92) are very intriguing. All eight of these papers are presented in just 82 pages and you may find that many of the things you knew from the heart take shape and fit better into your growing understanding.

Some of the best read and insightful papers are the marriage and family papers.

You can easily continue "The Urantia Book Basics" but reading these papers (81-92) will give you an in-depth understanding of the history and events which brought us to modern times.

The Third Epochal Revelation

Following the default of Adam and Eve the human races continued to make intellectual progress but they slowly lost ground spiritually to the point that revealed truth was threatened with extinction and the concept of God had grown hazy by 3000 B.C. The Melchizedeks knew of Michael's planned bestowal but they did not know when it would happen. They requested that some provision be made to preserve the light of truth on Urantia but were told that this was their responsibility as they saw fit. Machiventa (Mack-ah-ven'-ta) Melchizedek, one of the twelve planetary counselors, then volunteered to personalize on earth as a temporary man of the world. Although this had been done only six times in all the history of Nebadon, the Salvington authorities granted permission. Thus, Machiventa was incarnated near the city of Salem which would become known as Jebus, then Jerusalem, in Palestine 1,973 years before the birth of Jesus.

No human witnessed the unspectacular materialization of Machiventa. He simply entered the tent of Amdon, a shepherd, and announced, "I am Melchizedek, priest of El Elyon, the Most High, the one and only God."

Within a few years Melchizedek had a following of pupils, disciples and believers and he organized his schools at Salem to teach revealed truth. But, to the majority of students, Edentia was heaven and the Most High was God. They also believed the three concentric circles on the emblem Melchizedek wore stood for the three kingdoms of men, angels, and God rather than for the infinity, eternity, and universality of the Paradise Trinity. Even the convert Abraham believed the symbol stood for the three Most Highs of Edentia who functioned as one. However, no effort was made to change these beliefs and the majority were not taught beyond the fact of the rulership of the Most Highs of Edentia. Some, however, were taught the more advanced truth of the local universe and to his brilliant disciple, Nordan the Kenite, and his students, Melchizedek taught the truths of the superuniverse and even of Havona. Melchizedek also taught the superuniverse truths to Katro and his family whom he lived with for more than 30 years. And, these truths were passed on even to the days of their illustrious descendant Moses.

Melchizedek taught according to each follower's ability but always were they taught the doctrine of one God, a heavenly Creator, a divine Father. He prepared the people for the appearance of Michael, teaching them that another Son of God would come but that he would be born of a woman. His teachings of the one God, the Father of all, were represented further to Abraham as a God who would accept man on the simple terms of personal faith. And, when Michael appeared on earth he confirmed all that Melchizedek had taught about the Paradise Father.

The worship ceremonies of Salem were simple and basic: belief in El Elyon, the Most High God and only Universal Father; acceptance that the Most High God gives favor to faith not to sacrifices or burnt offerings; the promise to obey the seven commandments of Melchizedek; and to tell the good news to all men. But, even this was too much and too advanced for the men of those days. For too long they had believed man was born under penalty to the gods and that sacrifices and gifts were the only way to obtain forgiveness. It was beyond their understanding that salvation, divine favor, was a free gift, but Abraham did believe, at least halfheartedly.

Abraham attended the Salem school three different times and finally became a convert and one of Melchizedek's most brilliant students. It was not by chance but by choice that Salem was selected for the appearance of Machiventa. There were many factors such as existent trade, travel, and civilization, but the establishment of contact with favorable families whose offspring had the highest potential for leadership was an important consideration. Terah, the father of Abraham, met these expectations and so Abraham may be regarded as a chosen individual.

Terah and his family learned of Melchizedek from a teacher in Ur. After the death of Terah, Abraham and his brother, Nahor, were invited to come to hear the Salem truths and were told that in their enlightened offspring the entire world would be blessed. Nahor decided not to go but Lot, Abraham's nephew, went with his uncle to Salem.

Abraham and Lot lived in the hills near Salem where they could set up a defense against the northern raiders. On a trip to Egypt for supplies, Abraham served as commander of two successful military operations for a

distant relation on the Egyptian throne. Abraham and his wife, Sarah, lived at court but gave up those honors to return to his more spiritual work in Salem. But, Abraham was military-minded and it was with great difficulty that Melchizedek stopped Abraham from rounding up the neighboring tribes with the sword—so that they might more quickly learn the Salem truths!

Melchizedek had established peaceful relations, allowing only a defense policy for Salem, and when he would not approve Abraham's schemes for conquest, Abraham went to Hebron and established a military capital. Abraham was greatly feared by the surrounding petty kings and he played on their fears, waiting for an opportunity to attack. His excuse came when some of the rulers supposedly raided the property of his nephew, Lot, who lived in Sodom. After his attack and victory, Abraham became leader of a confederation of tribes, and eventually, the king of Sodom also joined the Hebron military confederation.

Abraham was well on his way to establishing a powerful state in Palestine when the thought that he had no son to succeed him began to worry him. He talked to Melchizedek who persuaded him to give up his scheme of material conquest and rule in favor of the spiritual kingdom of heaven. Melchizedek explained that the backward tribes were committing suicide by their foolish practices and they would be so weakened that the greatly increased descendants of Abraham could easily overcome them.

Abraham believed Melchizedek and made a formal covenant or agreement that represents the agreement between divinity and humanity: God agrees to do *everything* and man agrees to *believe* God's promise and follow his instructions. Man had believed that they were saved only by works—sacrifices and offerings—and now Melchizedek again brought the good news that salvation -- favor with God -- is to be had by *faith*.

After the birth of Isaac, in public acceptance of the covenant, Abram changed his name to Abraham. He assumed civil and military leadership of Salem, improved the temple, provided new tents for the entire school, improved the herds and dairy operation, and contributed to the better handling of the Salem missionaries. Abraham was not overly religious but he was a shrewd and efficient businessman who was thoroughly sincere, and, he believed in Machiventa Melchizedek.

Melchizedek trained missionaries who went out from Salem, Mesopotamia and Lake Van to remote regions of both Europe and Asia, reaching even the British Isles, Iceland and Japan. But, the tribes were backwards and except in Palestine, the truth of one God never claimed a whole tribe or race. The new teachings were absorbed in the older beliefs, superstitions, and magical practices but new revelation is always contaminated by the older evolutionary beliefs.

Termination of the Third Epochal Revelation

Soon after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah, Machiventa Melchizedek decided to end his emergency bestowal on Urantia. There were many reasons for this decision but primarily it was that he was becoming more and more regarded as a demigod and the surrounding tribes, and even his associates, were beginning to reverence him with highly superstitious fear.

Although Melchizedek had told his followers that he must sometime leave just as he had come, they were not prepared. He said good night, went to his tent, and was gone by morning, for his celestial fellows had taken him.

The Salem organization nearly disappeared although the traditions of those days were what Moses built upon when he led the Hebrews out of Egypt. Abraham never fully overcame the loss of Melchizedek. He left Salem and soon made converts but became contaminated by their superstitions, especially with their practice of sacrificing first-born sons. Even so, he became a great spiritual leader who was held in reverence by all tribes and honored by all kings. Before his death, Abraham arranged with his brother, Nahor, a wife for his son Isaac. Abraham died confident in his faith in God, which he had learned from Melchizedek in the vanished schools of Salem.

Joseph, Abraham's great-grandson, was a firm believer of the Melchizedek traditions and of the later teachings of Abraham and Isaac, but it became harder for each generation, and within five hundred years many regarded the whole story of Melchizedek and his teachings as a myth.

The full records of those days seemed impossible, even fantastic, to the later Hebrew priests and scribes, so that massive editing of the Old Testament records in Babylon resulted in many distortions. Conversations between Abraham and God were really talks between Abraham and Melchizedek; contacts with the "angel of the Lord" were really visits with Melchizedek. The ages of Abraham and his only wife, Sarah, were changed to make Isaac's birth miraculous. And, even the term Melchizedek was regarded as meaning God.

The Jews, in order to overcome their national inferiority as captives in Babylon, swung to the other extreme. They claimed themselves the chosen people of God and destroyed or edited their records to raise Abraham and their other leaders high above all other people, including Melchizedek. In doing this they lost sight of Melchizedek's teachings of the promised bestowal Son and few of their descendants were willing or able to recognize and receive Michael when he came to earth as Jesus of Nazareth.

Machiventa Melchizedek returned to assume his career as one of the twelve planetary councilors of Urantia. He collaborated for nineteen centuries with the many prophets, trying to keep the truths of Salem alive until Michael's bestowal. Following the times of the triumph of Michael on Urantia, Machiventa was assigned as one of the 24 directors attached to the Urantia service on Jerusem and recently was elevated to the position of personal ambassador on Jerusem of the Creator Son and given the title Vicegerent (deputy) Planetary Prince of Urantia.

The speculations and suggestions for the future are *thrilling* as we consider the possibilities associated with certain future appearances of both Magisterial and Trinity Teacher Sons combined with the specific promise made by Michael, as Jesus, to return to Urantia—"we may witness the presence on Urantia, simultaneously, of Machiventa, Adam, Eve, and Christ Michael, as well as either a Magisterial Son or even Trinity Teacher Sons."

The Spread of Melchizedek's Teachings

The noble men and women who spread the teachings of Melchizedek over the entire Eastern Hemisphere were the most enthusiastic and aggressive missionaries of any religion on Urantia. The Salem missionaries preached the one God of Melchizedek, the Most High of heaven, and of salvation through faith.

Distortions of the original teachings, by superstitions, existing rituals, dogmas, and sacrificial ceremonies around 600 years before Michael's bestowal, had become so severe that Melchizedek's mission potentially was in danger of failing. Through Melchizedek and a little understood technique of coordination of spirit agencies, Urantia had an unusual century (600 B.C.) characterized by outstanding religious, moral, and philosophic teachers all over the civilized world. And, through these teachers the Melchizedek teachings were revitalized.

In China, Lao-tse was a man of great spiritual vision. He taught that Tao was the One First Cause of all creation; he understood the Trinity concept and God's eternal purpose. He presented the doctrine of returning good for evil and compared true faith to the attitude of a little child. His teachings were later perverted into the beliefs of "seeing, doing, and thinking nothing" but he never taught such error. Twentieth century Taoism has very little in common with the concepts actually taught by Lao. Also in China during that time were the teachings of Confucius. His writings were actually the wise sayings of ancient philosophers and he put morality in the place of magic. But, Confucius was extreme regarding order and respect for ancestors. Today his writings are the basic moral fabric of culture for nearly a third of the world.

In India, the Vedic cult of many gods was coming under the direction of the Brahman teacher-priests who merged the Salem teachings with the idea of a Father-Brahma as the source of all gods, but, never would they accept the teaching of salvation through simple faith. To combat the new teachings, they edited and revised one of the most ancient of sacred books, the Rig-Veda and subsequent Vedas, to fix their rituals of worship and sacrifice. Their religion became so contaminated with superstition and ritual that it has the widest range of theology ever developed by man. The concentration on self and the perpetuation of self led to a belief in an endless round of incarnations as man, beast, or weeds—the doctrine of reincarnation. This was followed by the invention of the doctrine of eternal escape from self by absolute union with Brahman. Brahmanism was replaced by Buddhism, which later became the basis of Hinduism.

Eventually there was a return to the Vedas and the Hindu theology. Hinduism has a tolerant attitude of adoption toward other religions, claiming Buddha and Christ as incarnations of Vishnu. The Hindus rejected the missionary teachings *about* Jesus because it was a foreign "white man's religion." There is a great need today for the portrayal of the Jesusonian gospel—the teachings *of* Jesus. The framework and structure is present in India for the original gospel of Jesus without the dogmas and doctrines that make it a Western religion.

Born in Nepal, India, was Gautama Siddhartha who formulated those theories that later grew into the religion of Buddhism. Siddhartha's teachings removed all grounds for superstition, magical rituals, fear of ghosts or demons, and the practice of salvation through physical pain, sacrifice, and priests. Siddhartha's disciples called him 'the enlightened one, the Buddha;' and he taught the best godless philosophy ever invented by man. The greatest weakness of his teachings was that it never produced a religion of unselfish social service. Buddhism was promoted by the remarkable low-caste civil ruler, Asoka, who over a 25-year period trained and sent out over 17,000 missionaries, then making Buddhism the dominate religion of one half of the world. Buddhism lives today because it promotes calmness, self-control, serenity and happiness.

In Europe it was the Cynics who maintained the purest form of the Salem teachings and they were later incorporated into the newly forming Christian religion. The Jewish soldiers who fought in Europe also spread much of the Salem doctrine. Jewish theology, Greek philosophy, and Christian ethics all stemmed from Melchizedek's teachings.

When the Salem missionaries reached Greece they found the traditions of Adamson and the Andites but these teachings had become greatly contaminated by the inferior slaves brought to Greece. The Salem

teachings were then nearly destroyed by the Hellenic barbarians that arrived, for their beliefs were the basis of the Greek mythology that lasted a thousand years. The Salem teachers had influenced the Hellenic people, in that, no priesthood ever arose in Greece. When mythology died out, the Greeks were without a national religion and no priesthood to foster one. In the sixth century before Christ, the Greeks experienced magnificent intellectual advancement. Greek morals, ethics, and philosophy advanced far beyond the god concept—an imbalance between intellectual and spiritual growth that was as hazardous to Greece as it proved to be in India. The Greeks did not realize that "true religion is the cure for soul hunger, spiritual disquiet and moral despair."

Too few of the Salem missionaries made it to Italy and those that did were unable to overcome the spreading priesthood with its new galaxy of gods and temples which became the Roman state religion. This religion of the Latin tribes mostly consisted in forms, vows, and taboos and was doomed to collapse because it was more patriotic than religious. The mystery cults followed in both Greece and Rome since they had no real religion and the common people craved salvation. The most devastating mystery cult, the Mother of God sect, had its headquarters in those days on the exact spot of the present church of St. Peter's in Rome.

An extraordinary, young Egyptian king, Ikhnaton, swung his whole nation from the belief in many gods to the Melchizedek teaching of El Elyon, the One God. He outwardly worshipped the sun god, but taught his followers a religion of a personal relationship between man and the Father of all. His concepts of Deity were far above the later Hebrew concepts, but his ideas failed because they were not nationalist, which the people of those times demanded. The greatest weakness of his doctrine was that it was so advanced only the educated Egyptians could understand it. Upon his death the priests returned to power and destroyed most of his writings but 12 of the Old Testament Psalms were actually written by Ikhnaton, not by Hebrews.

In Iran during the sixth century before Christ, Zoroaster taught about the Seven Master Spirits, which he had learned about in Ur, Mesopotamia. His religion was one of action rather than rituals and he dared to battle with evil, inaction, and backwardness. The Jewish beliefs of heaven, hell, and devils derived from his teachings. When the Iranian priests revived the ancient worship of Mithras, it coexisted for some time with Judaism and Christianity—both of which were influenced by the teachings of Zoroaster, and through them, Mohammedanism (Islam) was also influenced by Zoroaster.

The Salem missionaries were not always successful and their teachings failed to take root in the Arabian Desert. Arabian families and clans worshipped their own household gods and there were unorganized beliefs throughout the desert. The only thing that brought the people together was the strange respect they had for the black Kaaba stone in a certain temple in Mecca. From this common point of interest the Islamic religion developed. Their weakness lies in their use of military force to further their religion, together with the degradation of women, while their strength is their clear presentation of Allah as the one and only Deity.

One of Machiventa Melchizedek's purposes for incarnating as the "priest of Salem" was the eventual spread of the idea of one God. Another equally important purpose was to prepare the people for the bestowal of Michael, Son of that one Universal God.

The Development of Judaism

Factually, the Hebrew religion is based on the covenant between Abraham and Melchizedek, but in terms of evolution, they adopted the creed of the Kenites in Palestine which was influenced by Egyptian moral teachings, by Babylonian religious thought, and by Iranian concepts of good and evil. Thus it was through the Hebrews that all of these religious thoughts and ideas of morality were later transmitted to the Western world.

The Semites were among the most blended peoples of Urantia, having hereditary factors from almost all of the world's races. After the days of Melchizedek and Abraham, certain tribes of Semites, because of their unusual religious beliefs, were called the children of Israel then later called Hebrews, Jews, and the "chosen people". Abraham's offspring formed the nucleus of the later Jewish people but they were not the ancestors of the Semites nor of the vast majority of people who became incorporated into the clans of Israel who chose to follow Moses as the children of Abraham.

The early Semites believed that a spirit that was to be feared and worshipped indwelt everything. Yahweh was one of thousands of their nature gods and was associated with the Sinai volcano of Mount Horeb. Various versions of Deity persisted, and at different times the Semites and immediate descendants of Abraham worshipped both Yahweh and El Elyon.

As time passed, there was confusion of terminology and the Semites, who disliked speaking the name of their Deity, used many appellations such as: The Most High, The Ancients of Days, The Creator of Heaven and Earth, The Lord, Angel of the Lord, The Lord of Hosts, Lord God of Israel, The Spirit of God, The Almighty, The Holy One, and The Father in Heaven. The name Jehovah wasn't used until 1500 A.D. and was used as the completed concept of Yahweh.

Except for the tinge of the El Elyon concept of Melchizedek among the more educated of Egypt, the old Yahweh ritual of magic and sacrifices was practiced by the Hebrew captive slaves. They hardly had a religion worthy of a name and were without a true concept of God. This downcast, ignorant group of humans can date their concepts of a Supreme Creator to the time following their escape from Egypt under that great leader, teacher, and organizer, Moses.

Moses' mother was of the royal family of Egypt, while his father was a Semitic liaison officer between the government and the captives. It was their common belief in the Melchizedek teachings that brought about this unusual marriage. Moses cast his lot with the people of his father and negotiated peacefully for the freedom of his fellow Semites. The king agreed to let them return to the desert and they agreed to maintain friendly relations with the Pharaohs and not join any alliance against Egypt. The king broke his agreement claiming his spies had discovered disloyalty among the slaves. About a year later the Egyptian military was fighting both Libyan and Greek invasions at which time Moses led his followers out of Egypt in a spectacular night flight.

Moses had been taught the Melchizedek teachings from his mother and father but his followers knew little about these teachings. By the time they reached Mount Sinai, Moses had formulated an enlarged concept of Deity that he wisely decided to proclaim as an expanded concept of his people's olden tribal god, Yahweh. Moses was plagued, however, with trying to teach his new and higher idea of Deity to the ignorant slaves by using the ancient term Yahweh that had always been represented by a golden calf. The eruption of Mount Sinai after their third week's stay allowed Moses to impress upon his people that their God was mighty, terrible, fearful, and all-powerful. Their limited understanding made it necessary to speak of God as being in man's image, subject to anger, wrath, severity and even influenced by man's conduct. Yahweh, under the teachings of Moses, became the God of Israel and they the chosen people. Later, after the Jews in Babylon were freed, the God of Israel became the God of all nations.

The Hebrews had no written language at the time of the exodus, and it was more than a thousand years after Moses' death that the traditions were recorded; even then, very little of his great work is on record. It was pitiful how Moses tried to instill his sublime concepts of El Elyon, the Most High, to the illiterate Hebrews. He feared to present the mercy of God; instead he awed his people with the fear of God's power, justice, and

revenge on the disobedient.

Before Moses died, he turned over the command of the Hebrews to Joshua, who desperately tried to hold the concept of a supreme Yahweh in their minds. By the time the Hebrews reached the fertile lands of Palestine, they were regressing. They almost lost sight of Moses' higher teachings and almost lost their opportunity to be the group who conserved the Melchizedek teaching of one God until the time of Michael's bestowal. But, the long line of spiritual leaders from Moses to Malachi did what no others had done. They converted their deity concept into Yahweh as a Father -- if not of the individual, then at least as the Father of their race.

Samuel, the first of the Hebrew prophets, came from a long line of Salem teachers. Through his great devotion he was able to withstand the almost total opposition to his efforts to turn Israel back to the worship of the supreme Yahweh of Moses' time. He was only able to win the service of the more intelligent half of the Hebrews, while the other half continued in the worship of their tribal gods and lowest concepts of Yahweh. Samuel's greatest contribution was the teaching that Yahweh was *changeless* and perfect—not subject to whims, nor like a repenting man. Yahweh became a changeless Creator and Supervisor of all creation. For the first time since Moses, they heard comforting promises for the humble and poor who began to take hope that they could improve their spiritual status with the changeless, covenant-keeping Yahweh.

In the tenth century before Christ, the Hebrew nation divided into two political kingdoms that differed in their attitude toward land. Although one group believed in Yahweh and the other in the Baal cult, it was not a religious dispute—it was about land. The southern, wandering Arabians looked at land as a gift from Yahweh that could not be sold or mortgaged, while the northern, settled Canaanites freely bought, sold and mortgaged their lands.

Baal meant "owner" and the Baal cult promoted the right to own and sell land. In addition, Baal was supposed to be the god of land fertility who sent rain and the favor of good crops. The Canaanites (Baal worshipers) owned houses, lands, and slaves and lived in the cities. Each Baal had a sacred place, a priesthood, and a "holy woman". Thus, from the land issue there evolved bitter social, economic, moral and religious disputes.

The prophet Elijah shifted the Yahweh-Baal issues from the land to the religious views of the Hebrews and Canaanites. He made a moral issue out of the olden land practices and began a campaign against the Baalites. Baals were many and Yahweh was one; the one God won out over the many as Elijah, followed by his associate Elisha, restored the northern kingdom to the concept of God as it had been in Samuel's time.

Amos, a leader who followed Elijah, upstepped the concepts of God by daring to denounce the criminality, drunkenness, oppression, and immorality of the northern tribes in Palestine. For the first time the Hebrews heard that Yahweh would no more tolerate sin in their lives (the chosen people) than he would among any other people. He proclaimed Yahweh the "God of all nations" thus saving the doctrine of the supreme Yahweh and furthering the Melchizedek revelation.

After Amos was stoned to death, Hosea continued the moral warnings. He preached forgiveness through repentance, not by sacrifice, and he proclaimed a gospel of loving-kindness and divine mercy.

During a time of widespread moral consciousness and proclaimed threats of punishment against personal sins and national crime, the first Isaiah appeared. He preached the eternal nature and infinite wisdom of God.

Micah and Obadiah embellished Isaiah's soul-satisfying gospel. They went on to denounce the priests and their whole sacrificial system and they would have overthrown the whole bloody ceremony but for the stubborn, resistant priests.

Jeremiah fearlessly took the next bold step by declaring that Yahweh was not on the side of the Hebrews in their military battles but rather was Yahweh the God of all nations, all the earth, and all the people. Jeremiah raised the Deity level of Yahweh to planetary, even cosmic, dignity. Many found it difficult to conceive of Yahweh apart from the Hebrew nation, and during the siege of Jerusalem, the priests and civil rulers threw Jeremiah in a dungeon for treason.

The national Yahweh fell as the Hebrew armies fell to the Babylonians and the resentment of the Jewish priests caused them to alter their history by the invention of fables and miracles to restore the Jews as the chosen people. Their intention was to bolster the dwindling courage of their fellows in captivity; they never claimed to be writing by inspiration nor did they claim to be writing a sacred book. Later, these writings and others were assembled into a book of supposedly infallible teachings. But for Isaiah the second, the priests would have had more influence over their captive fellows.

Isaiah believed in the elder Isaiah's God of justice, love, righteousness, and mercy. He believed, as Jeremiah, that Yahweh was the God of all nations. This preacher never stopped proclaiming the God of love. He beautifully portrayed the majesty of the supreme Yahweh, God of love, ruler of the universe, and affectionate Father of all people. He was such a remarkable preacher that he made converts equally among the Jews and their captors. Once again the Melchizedek gospel shined forth to bless mankind. The writings of the second Isaiah may be found in the book of that name, chapters 40 through 45 and they are the most sublime and true presentations of the spiritual concept of God that man had until the arrival of Michael (Jesus).

The teachings of the two Isaiahs would have prepared the way for the acceptance of the promised Messiah but the priests were so dedicated to their misconceived nationalism that the Isaiahs were not wholly successful. As a nation the Jews eventually lost their political identity, but the sincere Hebrew religion continued because the supreme Yahweh was clear-cut, vivid, personal and moral. The Jews loved justice, wisdom, truth and righteousness, but the Jewish religion failed to encourage creative philosophic discovery in the realms of truth.

Thus, this is the long and successful story of the unusual incarnation of Machiventa Melchizedek and his teachings -- the Third Epochal Revelation on Urantia. The Universal God concept was now alive in the hearts of men and women and Urantia was ready for the Son of that same God.

Michael who was born a creator, educated an administrator, trained an executive, and required to earn his sovereignty by experience would complete his bestowal career on the world of Urantia. He would eternally be enthroned as the undisputed and supreme sovereign of the universe of Nebadon. This final bestowal would coincide with the Fourth Epochal Revelation on our world.

The Fourth Epochal Revelation

Celestial Activity

During each of the previous six bestowals, Michael of Nebadon had voluntarily subordinated himself to the various associated wills of the persons of the Paradise Trinity. On his first bestowal he was subject to the will of the Father-Son-Spirit. On the second bestowal he was subject to the will of the Father-Son; on the third, to the will of the Father-Spirit; and on the fourth, to the will of the Son-Spirit. On his fifth bestowal he subordinated himself to the will of the Infinite Spirit and on his sixth bestowal he was subject to the will of the Eternal Son.

Michael's Urantia bestowal, his seventh, would have a double purpose. The Urantia bestowal would complete the simultaneous embracement of the sevenfold viewpoint of Paradise Deity and the creature viewpoints of time and space. Michael would fulfill his commission of bringing God to man and man to God and thereby earn unlimited, unquestioned, supreme power and authority of the universe of Nebadon.

Following the usual prebestowal conference with Gabriel, Michael then presented himself to Immanuel, his elder brother and Paradise counselor. Immanuel confirmed the perfect execution of Michael's six previous bestowal commissions. He pointed out that Michael would soon appear on Urantia, the disordered and disturbed planet of his choice, as a helpless baby, which was a new and untried experience for him. Just as the creatures of Nebadon are wholly dependent upon Michael, the local universe Creator and father, for safe conduct throughout their universe careers, Michael would be wholly dependent upon the Paradise Father throughout his mortal career.

Immanuel announced the mandate of the Ancients of Days that would prevent all spiritual jeopardy of Nebadon during Michael's voluntary bestowal. Immanuel would again accept responsibility for the unbroken administration of Nebadon, with Gabriel's cooperation, and the security of all its loyal creatures. Michael could thus focus on the mission of the enhanced revelation of the Paradise Father to the intelligent beings of Nebadon.

Then Immanuel offered counsel regarding the final bestowal:

Michael was to be born like all mortals. He was to grow up like all children of the realm and complete his human education. He was to live his life as he chose while subject to the will of the Paradise Father. He would finish his life as a man, just like all men, and ascend to the Father to receive the supreme sovereignty of his universe.

After Michael became sufficiently self-conscious of his divine identity he was to technically end the Lucifer rebellion in the system of Satania. This he should do in the assumed humble estate of the Son of Man, a weak mortal made powerful by his faithful following of the will of the Universal Father. He was to meet and judge Caligastia and Lucifer and forever terminate their shameful misrepresentations. Subsequent to this act and completion of the mortal bestowal, all similar challenges to Michael's authority would be eternally ended.

Michael should do any and all things necessary during his bestowal to make up for the sorrow

and confusion brought upon Urantia by the Caligastia betrayal and the Adamic default. After terminating the Urantia secession, Michael should then accept title of "Planetary Prince of Urantia."

Gabriel and all concerned would fulfill Michael's wish to end his bestowal with a judgment roll call to awaken the mortal survivors of the realm and to establish the dispensation of the bestowed Spirit of Truth.

Immanuel advised Michael to assume the role of a teacher while on Urantia. Attention should first go to the liberation and inspiration of man's spiritual nature. Immanuel said, "Next, illuminate the darkened human intellect, heal the souls of men, and emancipate their minds from age-old fears. And, then, in accordance with your mortal wisdom, minister to the physical well being and material comfort of your brothers in the flesh. Live the ideal religious life for the inspiration and edification of all your universe."

The will of the finite creature and the will of the Infinite Creator should become as one in Michael's earthly life just as they are uniting in the evolving Supreme Being. Michael was to bestow the Spirit of Truth so that all normal mortals of Urantia would be fully open to the ministry of the Spiritual Thought Adjusters, the personal gift of the Paradise Father.

Although Michael was bestowing his life upon Urantia, he was to live that life for the spiritual inspiration of every human and superhuman intelligence throughout his vast creation. His earth life was not to be lived in order to make an example for mortals to copy. Instead, his life was to be the inspiration for all lives upon all Nebadon worlds throughout all generations in the ages to come. His life would serve to motivate and encourage all intelligent life.

Michael's great mission during his one short lifetime in the flesh was to reveal God to men through wholehearted commitment to doing the Father's will. He was to interpret, with new enhancement, the Paradise Father, and he was to exhibit the possibilities attainable by a God-knowing human to the supermortal beings of all Nebadon. Michael would thus show his entire universe: God seeking man and finding him and man seeking God and finding him.

Michael's creative attributes of personal divinity would remain with him even as he lived as a Son of Man. Prior to the arrival of his Thought Adjuster he would have the power-of-will to terminate the incarnation at any time. After the arrival of the Adjuster and recognition of his mission, he was cautioned against the thinking of any superhuman desires of achievement or power since his creator prerogatives were inseparable from his personal presence. But, no superhuman events would occur apart from the will of the Father unless Michael should, by an act of conscious and deliberate will, make an undivided decision.

Immanuel further advised Michael concerning minor phases of his mortal life. He suggested that Michael give some things practical and immediately helpful to his fellow men. He counseled Michael to live his family and community life in accordance with the practices established in the day and generation of his bestowal. He should avoid politics and economic structures.

Under no circumstances should Michael interfere with the normal evolution of the Urantia

rares. However, this should not be interpreted as limiting his efforts to leave behind an improved system of positive religious ethics.

Michael's life and teachings were to become the common heritage of all religions and peoples. He should avoid the formal establishment of any cult, religion or segregated groupings. Nothing that could become an idol should be left behind on the planet; Michael should leave no writings and should not allow his fellows to make any images, drawings, or likenesses of him.

While Michael would live as a normal male, he should probably not enter into a marriage relationship. Such a relationship would be wholly honorable and consistent with his bestowal but one of the incarnation mandates forbids the leaving of human offspring on any planet by a bestowal Son of Paradise origin.

And, finally, Immanuel advised Michael to commit to the leading of his Adjuster and thus would he live the perfect life of a man on the planetary worlds. His life would not necessarily be regarded as perfect by any one man, in any one generation, on any one world, but would be wholly evaluated as supremely replete on the highly perfected worlds of his far-flung universe.

Immanuel then assumed jurisdiction of all Nebadon as acting sovereign for the period of Michael's seventh and mortal bestowal on Urantia. In the presence of all those assembled, Michael left his place on Salvington.

At noon, August 21, 7 B.C. with the kind help of fellow women travelers, Mary and Joseph became the parents of their first born child. They named their son Joshua (Jesus) ben Joseph.

Jesus was a normal, healthy, intelligent, but very inquisitive child. Joseph, being a successful carpenter and contractor was able to provide many extras for his growing family (eight children) such as travel, music lessons and instruments, as well as things like slates for writing. Both Mary and Joseph were dedicated parents who provided an enriching environment and ample learning opportunities. Jesus very early learned from his mother how to care for their animals, how to make cheese, how to weave, and how to care for flowers and plants. From his father Jesus learned to read and write two languages before entering school where he learned Hebrew, his third language. Jesus loved the study of nature and enjoyed long exploratory walks with his father. Joseph also taught Jesus carpentry and the location of the family's carpentry shop provided many opportunities for Jesus to meet the people traveling by caravan from all over the world. Often Joseph took Jesus with him on business trips, providing even more occasions for the study of people and the methods whereby men made a living. And, Jesus learned from other family members, farming from one uncle and fishing from another.

Upon graduation from the synagogue schools, Jesus was eligible to participate in the celebration of his first Passover in Jerusalem. Slowly had the realization unfolded that he was destined to perform a mission on earth for the enlightenment of man and the revelation of God. The day before the Passover Sabbath Jesus' mind was flooded with spiritual illumination and his human heart was filled with affectionate pity for the spiritually blind and morally ignorant multitudes. That night, for the first time in his earth career, there appeared an assigned messenger sent by Immanuel, who said, "The hour has come. It is time that you began to be about your Father's business."

"As time passed, the mystery of the incarnation became, to all of us, more and more unfathomable. We could hardly comprehend that this lad of Nazareth was the creator of all Nebadon. With the passing of time, we could see that his human mind was increasingly

discerning that, while he lived his life in the flesh, in spirit, on his shoulders rested the responsibility of a universe." (Page 1376)

No human youth has ever passed through the confusion and adjustment problems of adolescence with more crucial testing than that which Jesus experienced. While his parents truly loved him they did not, could not, understand him. Nothing, absolutely nothing miraculous ever happened and this especially disheartened his mother.

Jesus continued his advanced studies under the synagogue teachers and he continued with the home education of his youngest brothers and sisters, all the while formulating plans to "be about his Father's business." The future looked so bright when the affairs and plans for this Nazareth family were demolished by the accidental death of Joseph on a construction site.

Barely 14 years old, Jesus assumed responsibility for his pregnant mother and his siblings, ages one through ten. The earning power of even an excellent 14 year old carpenter could not support nine people and the baby on the way. They slowly slipped into poverty as Joseph's land holdings were sold off. Financial hardship was not the only difficulty. Before the age of 21, Jesus had declined an offer of marriage; he avoided political involvement, which turned many in his community against him; and he again dealt with death when his youngest brother, Amos, died.

Jesus was a nurturing and loving father-brother to his siblings and he patiently dedicated himself to their care and upbringing. In the tradition of Joseph, Jesus took each brother at age 13 to Jerusalem for their first temple Passover, helped each to choose their lifework and gave permission for marriage when the time came. Jesus saw to the education of even his sisters, when females were simply not educated or allowed to go to school. He also saw that each family member was trained in the care and running of a household.

Raising a family was not an easy task and Jude in particular was a most difficult teenager, shirking his financial responsibilities, running away from home, and even getting arrested at one time. Jesus had the full opportunity to experience the difficulties faced by earthly parents.

Finally, at age 26, when Ruth, the youngest, was 12 and the family was settled, some in their own households or careers, Jesus was ready to leave home. He had worked hard all those years and had managed to buy back the family's old carpentry caravan shop. Before leaving Nazareth he passed the title of the shop to James, the next oldest son of Joseph. At that time James assumed the position of "head and protector or Joseph's house" and full financial responsibility for the family. Jesus was then free from his earthly family responsibilities but promised to send money each month until "his hour shall have come."

Quietly on a rainy Sunday morning in January, A.D. 21, Jesus took unceremonious leave of his family. For a time he worked with an old friend of his father's, Zebedee, and his sons, James, John, and David, building boats in their shop beside the Sea of Galilee. Again Jesus provided for the needs of his family when he turned over his earnings to James Zebedee and asked him to continue his monthly family contributions, explaining that he wished to travel before beginning his Father's work.

Only the senior Zebedee knew of Jesus' two-year trip to Rome as interpreter for a wealthy businessman from India and tutor for his seventeen-year-old son. This two-year trip was characterized by Jesus' personal ministry work. He gained an intimate understanding of all races and classes of men and learned their reactions to life in the flesh. To each he encountered, he said or did something that made their lives richer and more worthwhile.

Upon his return from Rome, Jesus visited with the individual members of his family and, although he was quite natural, they more and more perceived him as difficult to understand. Again the opportunity for travel presented itself when the conductor of a large caravan became violently ill. Jesus, being a linguist, volunteered to take the assignment that would last over one year. These were the transition times of that being who began life as God, appearing as man, and who was now preparing to complete his earth career as man appearing as God. Great progress occurred in accomplishing harmony between his human mind and his indwelling Adjuster;

and his personality was preparing for his great change in attitude toward the world.

A year of solitary wanderings through Palestine and Syria followed his caravan position. Jesus spent his time working, observing, studying, visiting, ministering and learning how man lives, thinks, feels, and reacts to the environment of human existence. It was also during this period that Jesus lived alone with God for six weeks on the slopes of Mount Hermon.

Jesus had arranged to have a lad deposit food twice weekly at a designated point halfway up the mountain but faced his last struggle with the reality of mortal existence alone. He went into the great test with only his indwelling Adjuster to guide him. During these weeks, he completed his mortal task of mind-understanding and personality-control. He became absolutely assured of his divine nature. Near the end of his sojourn Jesus asked and was granted permission by his Father to hold conference with his Satania enemies as the Son of Man, as a human mortal. Satan, representing Lucifer, and the traitorous Caligastia were made fully visible to Jesus. To their many proposals and counter-proposals Jesus only replied, "May the will of my Paradise Father prevail, and you, my rebellious son, may the Ancients of Days judge you divinely. I am your Creator-father; I can hardly judge you justly, and my mercy you have already spurned. I commit you to the adjudication of the Judges of a greater universe." (Page 1493)

Michael of Nebadon won the unquestioned sovereignty of his universe among the silence of nature on Mount Hermon. He had completed the tasks set for him as a Creator Son; the Lucifer rebellion in Satania and the Caligastia secession on Urantia were virtually settled. He had paid the last price required of him to attain the sovereignty of his universe. When descending the mountain he saw the lad coming up with food and said, "The time of rest is over; I must return to my Father's business."

Back in Capernaum, Jesus again worked in Zebedee's boat shop until the day came that he laid down his tools saying, "My hour has come." Jesus soon presented himself to John the Baptist at the Jordan River. "He was a mortal of the realm who had attained the pinnacle of human evolutionary ascension on all matters related to the conquest of mind and to self-identification with the spirit. Perfect synchrony and full communication had become established between the mortal mind of Jesus and the indwelling spirit Adjuster." The only difference between the Adjusters that indwell us and Jesus' Adjuster was that his Adjuster had previously indwelt the incarnated Machiventa Melchizedek in preparation for Michael's special mission.

Baptism for Jesus was not the repentance or confession of sin but rather his consecration to the performance of the will of the Paradise Father. As John laid his hands upon Jesus to baptize him the Adjuster left the perfected human soul of Jesus to return just moments later from the Paradise Father as a Personalized Adjuster. Only Jesus witnessed his own former divine spirit descending on its return to him in personalized form, but John and two of Jesus' brothers overheard this same spirit of Paradise origin say, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." As Jesus looked up and prayed, he was presented with a vision of himself as a Son of God before his incarnation and as he would be when his final bestowal life should be finished. Only Jesus witnessed the heavenly vision and it ended his purely human life. The divine Son had found his Father and the Universal Father had found his incarnated Son.

Jesus then went into forty days of retirement to formulate plans and determine the technique he would use to proclaim the new kingdom of God in the hearts of men. While in the hills Jesus had his first personal communication since leaving Salvington, with his universe chief executive, Gabriel. While Gabriel and Michael conferred, the Constellation Father of Edentia appeared to announce the bestowal release for the Urantia incarnation by Jesus' sponsor-brother, Immanuel. Michael's bestowal work was finished as concerned the earning of the perfected sovereignty of his universe and the termination of the Lucifer rebellion. He was free now, or at any time he might choose, to end his incarnated bestowal, ascend to the right hand of the Father, receive sovereignty, and assume his well-earned unconditional rulership of Nebadon. Michael chose a plan of world ministry not only on behalf of the people on Urantia but for all the worlds of Nebadon—and he chose to finish his earth career as he had so nobly begun it, always subject to the Father's will. This was in reality the period of great decisions and when he rejoined his disciples his face shone with the glory of spiritual victory and moral achievement.

Soon Jesus had personally selected six apostles who in time would each select another. For the next four

months they lived with the "Rabbi" and learned not to be afraid of him or dismayed by his divinity. And Jesus taught: "I have come to proclaim the establishment of the Father's kingdom. And this kingdom shall include the worshipping souls of Jew and gentile, rich and poor, free and bond, for my Father is no respecter of persons; his love and his mercy are over all." And, the apostles, although at first shocked, early learned that women were to be accorded equal rights with men in the kingdom.

The apostles learned of the kingdom of heaven while Jesus learned more about the kingdom of men—human nature as it lives on Urantia and on other evolutionary worlds. Although Jesus repeatedly dashed to pieces their hopes and every ambition for glory, it is an eloquent testimony to the charm and righteousness of his life that only one apostle deserted him. Jesus was not a mild, sweet, gentle and kindly mystic. He was a robust, dignified, naturally good man and his teachings were thrillingly dynamic. Rugged Galilean fishermen called him Master.

The gospel of Jesus was:

1. The kingdom of heaven is at hand.
2. By faith in the Fatherhood of God you may enter the kingdom of heaven, thus becoming the sons of God.
3. Love is the rule of living within the kingdom—supreme devotion to God while loving your neighbor as yourself.
4. Obedience to the will of the Father, producing the fruits of the spirit in one's personal life, is the law of the kingdom.

As the gospel of the kingdom spread, the chief priests and rulers of the Jews became concerned over what to do about Jesus and his apostles.

Jesus' public teaching consisted mainly in short discourses and parables but he taught his apostles by questions and answers. He held hundreds of long and earnest sessions with them. On one occasion, gentiles who thought the gospel was fit for only weaklings and slaves, claiming that men could not live that way, disheartened the apostles. Jesus spoke at great length but in part said, "I have come into this world to do the will of my Father and to reveal his loving character to all mankind. That, my brethren, is my mission. And this one thing I will do, regardless of the misunderstanding of my teachings by Jews or gentiles of this day or of another generation. The child does not always comprehend the wise and loving motives of the father's restraining discipline. But I declare to you that my Father in Paradise does rule a universe of universes by the compelling power of his love. Love is the greatest of all spirit realities. Truth is liberating revelation, but love is the supreme relationship. No matter what blunders your fellow men make in their world management of today, in an age to come, the gospel, which I declare to you, will rule this very world. *The ultimate goal of human progress is the reverent recognition of the Fatherhood of God and the loving materialization of the brotherhood of man.* But who said my gospel is only for weaklings? Do you resemble weaklings or did John the Baptist look like a weakling? Because my Father is a God of love and delights in the practice of mercy, do not think the service of the kingdom is to be one of ease. The Paradise ascent is the supreme adventure of all time, the rugged achievement of eternity.

"The service of the kingdom on earth will require all the courage that you and your associates have. The unbelievers of today may tease you for preaching non-resistance and living lives of nonviolence but you are just the first of a long line of sincere believers who will astonish all mankind by their heroic devotion to these teachings. No armies have ever displayed more courage than will be portrayed by you and your successors who will proclaim to the world the good news—the Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of men. The courage of the flesh is the lowest form of bravery. Mind bravery is a higher type of courage, but the highest and supreme is uncompromising loyalty to the enlightened beliefs of profound spiritual realities. And such courage constitutes the heroism of the God-knowing man. And you are all God-knowing men." From that very day the apostles public preaching and personal ministry work took on a new note of courageous dominance and positive aggression.

Jesus taught and answered nearly every conceivable question you can imagine. He sowed seeds and

ministered to the multitudes as he passed by, but nothing was more important than the individual in need. When the political tides began to turn and the Jewish rulers listened only in the hope of trapping him, Jesus began to teach by the use of parables. (The Urantia Papers have at least thirty of Jesus' parables.)

The Jews clung to the idea of a wonder-working deliverer. Jesus refused to stoop to requests for the performance of wonders or power exhibitions. When he healed the sick he told them to tell no one, even though most spread the word of their miraculous healings. When 5,000 people gathered to hear Jesus and stayed long past mealtime, he desired to feed his hungry people. When he did so, because of their limited thinking, they attempted to make him king. Jesus admonished them for wanting a king in order to have free bread when what he wanted to give them was spiritual food for their souls. Without miracles, all but about 500 turned back and refused to follow him.

Upon the death of his longtime, intimate friend, Lazarus, and with the Father's consent, Jesus did exhibit his power over life and death. His actions, in part, were for the benefit of the scribes and Pharisees of Jerusalem, that they might have one more chance to accept his teachings. After Lazarus came out of his tomb, after he was awakened from death, Jesus said, "My son, what has happened to you will also be experienced by all who believe this gospel except that they will be resurrected in a more glorious form. You will be a living witness of the truth which I spoke—I am the resurrection and the life."

Although many believed in Jesus as a result of this mighty work, others only hardened their hearts the more to reject him. The alarmed Pharisees quickly called a meeting of the Sanhedrin to determine what should be done. Before long they decided to have Jesus seized.

Tuesday, April 4, A.D. 30, Jesus said good-bye to Lazarus. He gave parting advice to the woman's corps. He gave personal counsel to each of his apostles and he delivered his last discourse in the temple at Jerusalem. Following a day of rest Jesus then talked on Thursday to about 50 of his trusted followers. That night was held the last supper when Jesus established the remembrance supper, saying, "This is the new Passover which I leave with you, even the memory of my bestowal life, the word of eternal truth; and of my love for you, the outpouring of my Spirit of Truth upon all flesh."

Jesus again explained the necessity for leaving and spoke plainly so that his apostles would be prepared for the events so very soon to follow. He told them that life in the Father's kingdom is not an endless rest of idleness and selfish ease but rather a ceaseless progression in grace, truth and glory. He promised to return for a short time after his death and assured them that soon after returning to the Father he would send a new spirit teacher, his Spirit of Truth. But all of this was very difficult for the apostles to comprehend.

Michael of Nebadon as the incarnated human, Jesus of Nazareth, was born like all humans, lived like all humans and experienced death just like all humans must do. At some time he would have had to divest himself of his mortal body but that could have happened in any number of ways. The Father never planned, executed, or willed the death of Jesus on a cross between two thieves. Death was indeed part of Michael's experiential mortal career but it did not have to be violent or unusual. All of that was man's doing, not God's. The gospel that mortal man may, by faith, become spirit-conscious that he is a son of God, is not dependent on the death of Jesus. While the gospel has been illuminated by the Master's death, it is *tremendously* illuminated by his *life*.

Following his crucifixion and burial, Jesus made 19 visits in his morontia form. The Master's last visit was Thursday morning, May 18, on the western slope of Mount Olivet with his eleven silent and somewhat bewildered apostles. (Judas Iscariot had killed himself.) His last words to them were: "I am about to leave you and ascend to my Father. Very soon we will send the Spirit of Truth; and when he has come, you shall begin the new proclamation of the gospel of the kingdom, first in Jerusalem and then to the uttermost parts of the world. Love men as I have loved you and serve your fellow mortals even as I have served you. By the Spirit fruits of your lives, impel souls to believe the truth that man is a son of God, and that all men are brethren. Remember all I have taught you and the life I have lived among you. My love overshadows you, my spirit will dwell with you, and my peace shall remain upon you. Farewell."

When the morontia Master had finished speaking he disappeared from their sight just like he had done after each of his other appearances.

By way of Jerusem the Master went to Edentia where the Most Highs, under his observation, released Jesus of Nazareth from the morontia state. Through the spirit channels of ascension Michael proceeded to the right hand of the Paradise Father to receive his sovereignty as a Master Michael Son. He was welcomed back on Salvington as the supreme and unconditional sovereign of Nebadon, the universe of his own making, serving, and complete understanding.

On none of Michael's bestowals did he reveal God the Supreme, but the sum total of all seven bestowals was a new Nebadon revelation of the Supreme Being. Michael, a sevenfold Master Son, has identified himself eternally with the Supreme. It is speculated that in the next universe age he will collaborate with the Supreme Being in the first experiential Trinity for and in the universes of outer space. Like all the Father's children, Master Michael of Nebadon continues his ceaseless progression in grace, truth and glory.

"Urantia is the sentimental shrine of all Nebadon, the chief of ten million inhabited worlds, the mortal home of Christ Michael, sovereign of all Nebadon, a Melchizedek minister to the realms, a system savior, an Adamic redeemer, a seraphic fellow, an associate of ascending spirits, a morontia progressor, a Son of Man in the likeness of mortal flesh, and the Planetary Prince of Urantia. And your record tells the truth when it says that this same Jesus has promised some time to return to the world of his terminal bestowal, the World of the Cross."
(Page 1319)

Thus ended the seventh and final bestowal of the Paradise Son of Nebadon of the order of Master Michaels and the Fourth Epochal Revelation on Urantia.

Interim - Development of Christianity

The worship of Mithras was, for a time, the mystery cult with the greatest number of followers and it competed with the newly forming Christian religion. Mithraism began in Iran and was influenced by the teachings of Zoroaster, especially his ideas of good and evil. Zoroaster's teachings and all other religions grew from Melchizedek's teachings, being distorted to various degrees.

Originally, Mithras came from a great rock and was a militant god who made water gush from rocks hit by his arrows. Mithras supposedly caused a world flood whereby only one man survived because he had a specially built boat. In addition, Mithras had a last supper with the sun god before ascending into the heavens. Followers believed that at the end of the world Mithras would judge the living and the dead—the wicked being then destroyed by fire and the righteous would reign eternally with Mithras. On this judgment day the Mithras' keys of heaven would unlock the gates of Paradise for the faithful; and all unbaptized would be destroyed upon the return of Mithras to earth.

Followers of this cult worshipped in secret places including caves. They chanted hymns, mumbled magic, ate the sacrificed animals and drank their blood. They worshipped three times a day, had special weekly ceremonies, and had their annual, most elaborate festival on December twenty-fifth. Men could join one of seven different orders and later wives and daughters of believers were allowed to attend adjoining temples of the Great Mother.

During the third century after Christ, both the Mithraic and Christian churches looked very similar on the outside and each had similar altars with backgrounds showing their suffering savior who had brought salvation to a sin-cursed world. Both religions baptized believers and both practiced the sacrament of bread and wine. Mithras worshipers dipped their fingers into holy water when they entered the temple and the Christian churches around Rome took up this custom from the people who, at the time, belonged to both religions.

Christianity is founded almost exclusively on the personal religious experience of Paul of Tarsus. Mithraism was the dominant religion of Tarsus when Paul was in his teens and Mithraism must have influenced him. Most of the New Testament is devoted, not to the portrayal of the significant and inspiring religious life of Jesus, but to a discussion of Paul's religious experience and his personal religious convictions. It is interesting to note that the letters which Paul wrote to his converts expressing his personal viewpoints were much later regarded as the "word of God" although Paul had no way of knowing that would ever happen. Paul's personal views or theology, and Greek philosophy, form the basis of European ethics today.

Mithraism was tolerant of all religions except Christianity. The main difference, aside from the fact that one had Jesus as their savior and the other had Mithras, was that Mithraism was militant and Christianity was ultra peaceful. The deciding factor in the struggle between the two was the full fellowship and admission of women into the Christian faith.

The Christian religion developed through all these teachings, influences, cults, personal beliefs, and the historical fact of the life of Jesus. The original gospel of Jesus did spread westward, but in so doing, his teachings became westernized and began to lose their universal appeal until Christianity became a "white man's" religion.

In the end the Christian religion dominated the West. Mithraism supplied the rituals, Greek philosophy supplied the ideas of ethical values, and Christianity was the technique for saving moral and social values.

Many, many of the earliest Christians were Jewish converts and, therefore, much of the system of the Hebrew theology, morals, belief in the hereafter, and in the supreme Yahweh were also incorporated into Christianity.

Christianity does contain more of Jesus' teachings than other religions but it also contains much that Jesus never taught. The Christian atonement doctrine—the teaching that Jesus was the sacrificed Son who paid for the sins of the world so that God the Father's stern justice would be satisfied and his divine wrath appeased—was the result of early efforts to connect the gospel teaching to Jewish theology and win

converts of the disbelieving Jews. These efforts failed to win Jews but succeeded in confusing and alienating many honest souls in all following generations.

The second great blunder in the early development of Christianity was the focus on the person of Jesus to the extent that his gospel became overshadowed and dimmed by his personality aspects. Early Christians were so concerned with who they thought Jesus was that they overlooked what Jesus said about his mission to bring man closer to God and God closer to man.

Although Christianity is still a beautiful religion about Jesus, it has for the most part, forgotten the *personal religion of Jesus: the Fatherhood of God and the universal brotherhood of all men.*

The East and West will have difficulty sharing in the worship of the Universal Father so long as Christianity promotes a religion about Jesus and emphasizes the differences in world religions. Both Western and Eastern religions can accept the true religion of Jesus which is their common thread – if only they were more willing to recognize it.

The Fifth Epochal Revelation

All revelations up-step and enlighten the religions of evolution. Evolutionary religion is not logical. It is sentimental and based on a hypothetical ghost-spirit world and fear of the unknown.

Revelatory religion is offered by the real spiritual world. It is a technique that saves vast amounts of time sorting out the errors of evolution from the truths of spirit acquirement. And, this technique of the spiritual expansion of evolutionary religion is part of the universe plan. It is also a supervised plan.

Cosmology is a system of beliefs that explain the origin and structure of the universe in an ordered, harmonious framework and the relationship of mortals to the universe. Urantia, being generally ignorant of origins, including physical origins, has needed instruction in cosmology from time to time. However, the laws of revelation restrict the impartation of unearned or premature knowledge—human wisdom must evolve.

The historical facts and spiritual truths of this, the Fifth Epochal Revelation, will stand throughout the ages but many scientific statements will need to be revised as mankind progressively makes new discoveries since revelation of undiscovered facts are forbidden. Future students should not lose sight of the genuine spiritual truth of a revelation because of the limitations and restrictions of man's present knowledge of the sciences. Working within this current framework of knowledge will result in errors of cosmology—errors that may tempt future students to disregard the entire revelation. But remember that science deals with *facts* and religion deals with *values*, while the mind endeavors to unite both into a concept of complete *reality*.

The Fifth Epochal Revelation to Urantia is unique in that it is not the work of one universe personality but the combined work of many universe beings. But, it does not claim to be a complete revelation because anything less than the attainment of the Universal Father is incomplete. It also does not claim to be perfect because anything which human hands (and minds) touch is subject to fallibility.

What the Urantia Papers do claim, what they do reveal, will not fail to expand your spiritual growth if you endeavor to integrate this new knowledge with an open heart and mind. The study of only a segment of a work of art is possible; however, one must view an entire work in order to judge its value as a masterpiece. Although any reading of *The Urantia Book* is beneficial, the Urantia Papers should be read in their entirety in order to fully appreciate their sublimity. It is the wholeness of the book which will most enhance your personal spiritual life. Nevertheless, in the last analysis, the Fifth Epochal Revelation, *The Urantia Book*, must be judged by its fruits and according to its divine excellence.

All revelation, personal and epochal, is a gift—a freely offered gift to be shared and enhanced through your personal experience. All who see your spiritual fruits will witness your new beauty and spiritual gains. We who enjoy the gift of the Fifth Epochal Revelation believe we are entrusted stewards of revealed, higher, enlightened, spiritual truth.

The Urantia Book holds the promise of a deeper personal relationship with the God of your understanding — through the broadening of your understandings and perspectives.

Closing Note

On page 215 of *The Urantia Book* it says that the human mind would normally crave to understand the Urantia Papers proceeding from the simple and finite to the complex and infinite; in other words from human origin to divine destinies. "But that path does not lead to *spiritual wisdom*. Such a procedure is the easiest path to a certain form of genetic knowledge, but at best it can only reveal man's origin; it reveals little or nothing about his divine destiny. Such a technique, starting from the lower to approach the higher, is in danger of committing four errors of reasoning:

- (1) The technique may fail to give understanding of the final goal of personal attainment and/or cosmic destiny.
- (2) It may, by oversimplification, distort facts, pervert truth and lead to the misconception of destinies.
- (3) History, or the knowledge of how a being comes into existence, does not provide insight or understanding into the true character or present status of a being.
- (4) The present is relative to the past and to the future. Study of the past, history, fails to reveal the future -- destiny.

I questioned whether writing "The Urantia Book Basics" was the *right* thing to do since I attempted to simplify and sequentially paraphrase the essence of the concepts and teachings of *The Urantia Book*. Although there are also passages in *The Urantia Book* which support my decision to write this book, please remember that my interpretations are very limited and you cannot judge the merits of *The Urantia Book* based on my scaled down version of the basic concepts. It is my intention to provide an ascending disclosure for our young people and to assist new readers who may initially think they could not get through the many pages of *The Urantia Book* without help.

My hope for you, the reader, is that you have gained three things:

First, adequate understanding of the fundamental teachings of *The Urantia Book* in order that you not feel overwhelmed but rather confident about reading the Urantia Papers.

Second, curiosity, excitement and anticipation as you progress to the "big blue book".

And, third, an awareness and loving trust of the divine presence within you, who, together with the spiritual forces surrounding you, will work for your spiritual advancement.

May your spiritual light always shine brightly!

In His Love and Service,

Mary

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